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MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Publications

Bracebridge District LAND USE STRATEGY



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Bracebridge District

LAND USE STRATEGY



Ministry of
Natural
Resources

Hon. Alan W. Pope
Minister
W. T. Foster
Deputy Minister

June 1982

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Princeton University

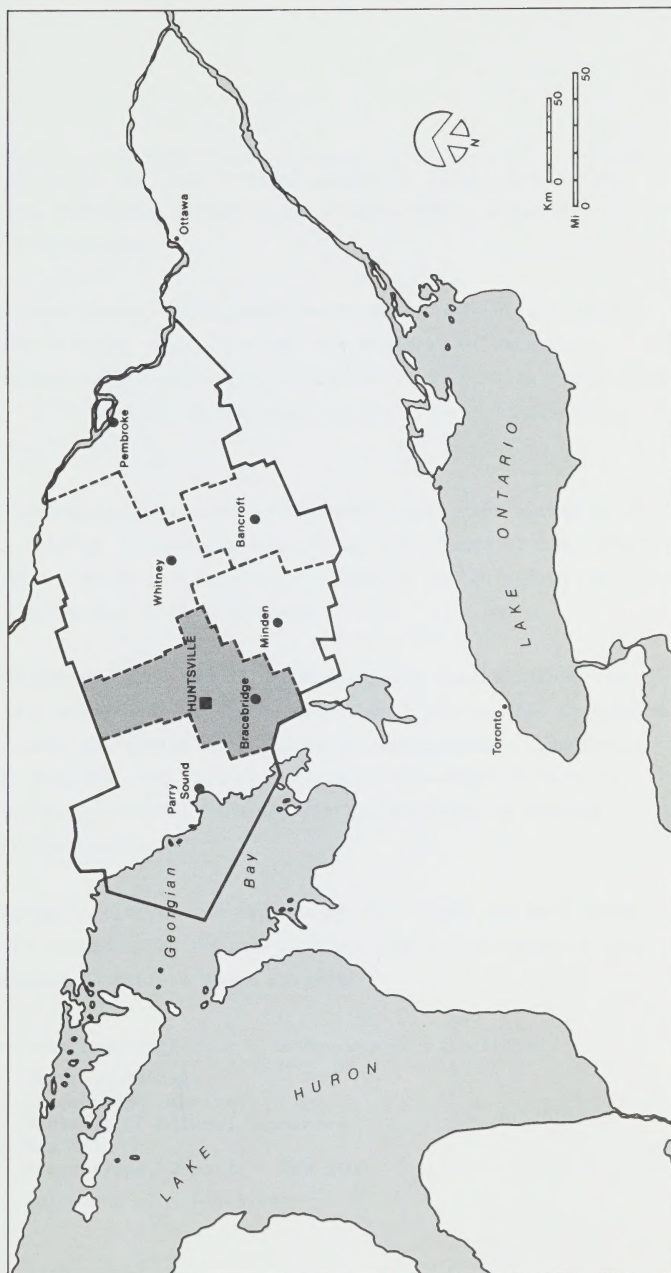
LAND USE STRATEGY




REGIONAL SETTING

BRACEBRIDGE DISTRICT ALGONQUIN REGION

- REGION BOUNDARY
- DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- REGIONAL OFFICE
- DISTRICT OFFICE
- ▒ DISTRICT PLANNING AREA





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The Bracebridge District Land Use Strategy generally identifies how the Ministry of Natural Resources wishes to see the resources within the Bracebridge District managed.

The Strategy has been prepared for resources on Crown and private land. On Crown land, the Strategy identifies how the Ministry of Natural Resources will manage resources, while on private lands strategy identifies how the Ministry of Natural Resources hopes to see private landowners manage resources.

In terms of the treatment of resources on private lands, the authority of the municipality related to land use control and the rights of the private landowner related to use of the resource are clearly recognized by the Ministry and are reflected in this strategy.

The overall direction for programs of the Ministry of Natural Resources is established at a provincial level consistent with the Ontario Government's policies for economic and social development and environmental protection. This direction is outlined for Ministry programs in southern Ontario in the report, *Co-ordinated Program Strategy for the Ministry of Natural Resources in Southern Ontario*.

The specific program objectives and targets of this report reflect those established in the *Co-ordinated Program Strategy* and the policies of this Strategy are designed to achieve these targets.

Comments or questions regarding this strategy may be directed to:

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The Ministry of Natural Resources is responsible for the management of forest resources, minerals, fish and wildlife resources; for protection of special or representative plants, animals and sites; and for providing or encouraging the provision of a wide range of outdoor recreational activities.

Resources are managed to meet Ontario's present and future needs. This is not a simple task. The same resources often are needed for many different purposes. The Ministry must recognize future needs and actively pursue a course of action to meet those needs.

The activities of the Ministry are defined by a goal and three objectives. The goal of the Ministry of Natural Resources is:

to provide for outdoor recreation and resource development for the continuous social and economic benefit of the people of Ontario and to administer, protect and conserve Crown lands and waters.

The broad objectives of the Ministry are:

Resource Production:

- to provide for an optimum continuous contribution to the economy of Ontario by stimulating and regulating the utilization of available supplies of fish, furbearers, minerals, and trees by resource products industries;

Outdoor Recreation:

- to provide from Crown lands and waters and to encourage on other lands and waters:
 - a wide variety of outdoor recreational opportunities accessible to and for the continuous benefit of the people of Ontario,
 - the identification and conservation of unique or representative physical, biological, cultural and historical features of the Province, and

-
- a continuous contribution to the economy of Ontario from tourism and its related industries.

Land and Water Management:

- to facilitate the orderly development and conservation of Ontario's land and water resources for the continuous social and economic benefit of the people of Ontario; and
- to prevent loss of life, and to minimize social disruption, property damage, and loss of natural resource values resulting from forest fires, floods, erosion, earth slippage and abandoned mines.

Generally, the direction which has been established by the Ministry in Bracebridge District recognizes a moderate rate of economic growth related to resource industries, while maintaining or improving the quality of resource, recreational, and tourism opportunities provided in the District. It recognizes that economic growth is, in large measure, contingent upon maintaining the significant recreational values of the area.

To succeed, a significantly increased management effort is required on Crown land in Bracebridge District. The contribution from private land must also be substantially increased. This requires an emphasis by the Ministry on the provision of assistance to private landowners.

The Strategy identifies how the Ministry plans to manage Crown land, and how it hopes to influence the use and management of private land.

It is important to note, that while the information used is the best available, there are difficulties with it which affect target setting and the establishment of strategies to achieve these targets. Targets are largely based on forecasts of demand and extrapolation of past trends. As targets cannot account for unexpected shifts in patterns of use, nor for a variety of environmental phenomena (fire, flooding, acid rain), the strategies designed may, or may not, satisfy actual resource demands in the future. Furthermore, in many cases, information on present resource use is not well documented, and in some instances information on resource capability is inadequate.

It should also be clearly recognized that the policies of this Strategy are based largely upon program targets set for the year 2000. The Strategy does not specifically account for demands for resources after the year 2000.

Continuing and changing demands and the exhaustion of depletable resources will affect long term resource management.

Accordingly, the Ministry recognizes the need to continue to monitor demands and to update targets and their respective program strategies and to the extent possible, provide flexibility in planning and resource management to retain future options.

A: environment

The Ministry will conduct its activities in an environmentally responsible manner.

The Ministry is one of several agencies which have a legislated responsibility to maintain an acceptable environmental quality for the people of Ontario.

Achievement of Ministry program objectives is contingent upon maintaining a satisfactory environment through responsible management. All programs of the Ministry share in the responsible management of natural resources. Where environmental impacts are inevitable, mitigating measures and rehabilitation are used.

The Ministry's activities are subject to the Environmental Assessment Act and require compliance with the conditions and procedures established for class environmental assessments, individual assessments or specific exemptions.

To ensure the achievement of environmental policy in Bracebridge District, the Ministry will:

- manage renewable resources to provide sustained benefits. To the extent appropriate, this will involve management of entire plant and animal communities rather than single species or products;
- manage non-renewable resources to meet current demands, giving attention to anticipated future needs. This will include discouraging the use of high quality materials where low quality materials would suffice;
- identify and seek to protect significant and representative wetlands and ensure that their values are given due consideration in planning;
- identify and protect the habitat of provincially rare and endangered animals and plants;
- consider critical resource areas in planning and management; and
- cooperate with other agencies in monitoring the effects of contaminants, including acid rain, on natural resources and in research to seek solutions.

B: public safety

The Ministry will seek to eliminate loss of life and to minimize property damage and community disruption resulting from floods, erosion, earth slippage and forest fires.

The Ministry will seek to eliminate injury and loss of life from hazards around abandoned mines, pits and quarries.

The Ministry will promote the safe pursuit of outdoor recreation and resource production activities.

In Bracebridge District, the first objective is met by the Ministry in cooperation with municipalities through efforts in stream flow forecasting, contingency planning, emergency response, water regulation, forest protection, and through input to municipal plans and by-laws. The regulatory flood for designation of floodplains in Bracebridge District is defined as that produced by a storm equivalent to that which occurred in Timmins in 1961 or the 1:100 year flood,¹ whichever is greater.

Owing to intensive development and high property and resource values, damage that could be caused by forest fires in the District is significant, although the extent of fires has been small in recent times.

The second objective is met in conjunction with the Ministry of Labour through field inspection of abandoned pits, quarries and mines and through follow-up action.

To contribute to public safety, the Ministry, in conjunction with others, will:

- discourage new development susceptible to flooding, erosion and earth slippage;

¹In the Timmins storm of 1961, 19.3 centimeters of rain fell over a watershed of 10.4 square kilometers in a period of 12 hours. The 1:100 year flood is a periodic flood of a magnitude having a recurrence interval of once in every 100 years.

-
- advocate contingency planning, undertake flood forecasting, and co-operate in the provision of remedial works such as dams and channelization where development has traditionally existed on hazard lands;
 - participate in floodplain mapping;
 - suppress forest fires in the District based on the following priorities: human safety, public works, private structures and natural resources;
 - develop cooperative fire prevention and control agreements with municipalities, railways, and forest industries;
 - ensure that development and resource extraction activities are designed to reduce the possibility of fire;
 - curtail Ministry activities, and activities of the public where necessary and appropriate, at times of high fire hazard;
 - act as the lead agency in a planned program for response to forest fire and flood emergencies;
 - promote the hunter safety training and the trapper education programs;
 - encourage the provision of adequate safety measures at operating pits, quarries, mines, and in forest operations; and
 - ensure adequate safety measures are provided and maintained at abandoned pits, quarries and mines.
-

C: energy

The Ministry will undertake its activities so as to contribute to the provincial energy objectives.¹

Specifically in Bracebridge District, the Ministry will contribute to the Government's energy policy by:

- ensuring that energy potential is considered before a permanent commitment is made to uses which exclude energy production;

¹Provincial energy objectives are identified in: *Energy Security for the Eighties: A Policy for Ontario, 1979*, Ministry of Energy.

-
- conducting an inventory of potential hydraulic energy from Ministry dams;
 - providing opportunities, including access, for harvest of wood and use of wood residues, both directly and indirectly, as fuel; and
 - participating in inventory programs to determine the size and quality of peat resources.
-

D: agriculture

Consistent with the agricultural policy of the provincial government, Crown lands having high capability for agricultural production, will be retained and made available for agricultural production as needs arise.

Within the District, there is only a very small proportion of the total land base with high to moderate capability for agriculture. Except for small isolated parcels of Crown lands with moderate agricultural capability, these lands are held in private ownership.

Nevertheless, in Bracebridge District, the Ministry will:

- in accordance with the Provincial Foodland Guidelines, protect high capability agricultural lands on Crown land to ensure their availability for future food production; and
- discourage the disposition or use of high priority agricultural lands which would preclude their future use for food production.

A: forestry

1. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES, TARGETS AND STRATEGY

The forestry objective is to provide for an optimum contribution to the economy by forest-based industries consistent with sound environmental practices and to provide for other uses of the forest.

The target for wood production in Bracebridge District is to produce an annual continuous supply of 0.18 million cubic metres (6.6 million cubic feet) annually of industrial fibre from Crown land, and to encourage the provision of 0.34 million cubic metres (11.9 million cubic feet) annually from private land, to the year 2020, while maintaining the present diversity of forest products. In addition, a supply of wood will be produced to make the maximum contribution to the achievement of the provincial energy target.

The annual target of 0.52 million cubic metres (18.5 million cubic feet) consists of 76 percent tolerant hardwood (maple, yellow birch) and 24 percent intolerant hardwoods (e.g. poplar) and softwood volumes. At the present time, the main harvest is comprised of tolerant hardwoods with Crown lands generating 36 percent and Crown land producing 64 percent of total wood volumes.

The target therefore, permits a 1 percent per annum growth rate to the year 2020 in the present woods industry in Bracebridge District. In addition, a considerable volume of wood is available to support industries other than traditional sawmilling (e.g. use of low-grade material and pulpwood). This includes the 0.13 million cubic metres (4.5 million cubic feet) of intolerant hardwood and softwoods. If industry develops to use these latter volumes, the target provides for an additional 1 to 2 percent per annum growth rate in the total forest industry.

In addition to the production available for industrial purposes, a substantial, but as yet undetermined volume is available for fuel to contribute to the achievement of the provincial energy target.

Achievement of the target requires that virtually all the productive forest land in Bracebridge District not committed to other uses be available for timber harvest. Clearly the target cannot be achieved from Crown land alone. In fact, Crown land can provide no more than 40 percent of the target, even with very intensive management. This is less than the present demand by the industry. Private land forests are essential to the achievement of the target.

Figure 1 shows priority areas for timber production.

Increasing the production of quality wood products to the level required to meet the target requires extensive forest renewal and improvement on both Crown and private land. The task is complicated by the present condition of the forest; the time required for improvement; the large number of individual private landowners; the small size of holdings; the lack of incentive; and often, the presence of disincentives (the long term investment horizon, aesthetic impacts of cutting) to private land forestry. Achievement of the target will therefore require much more intensive forest management.

The general strategy for timber management within the District therefore is to encourage the proper management of private land forests, and to improve the timber growing stock by increasing stand improvement efforts on both Crown and private lands.

2. PROGRAM DIRECTION

a. General

In working towards achievement of the timber target the District will:

- encourage full utilization of harvested timber;
- use management systems compatible with other uses of the forest and the recreational landscape;
- undertake forest management on Crown lands in accordance with accepted silvicultural practices, and encourage the management of private land forests in a similar fashion;
- increase the present proportion of sawlog and veneer log quality material in the total timber harvest; and
- where appropriate, adopt special management practices to accommodate other uses of the forest.

FIGURE 1

BRACEBRIDGE DISTRICT

5 0 5 10 15 20 Kilometres
5 0 5 10 15 Miles



- M.N.R. Administrative District
- District Municipality, County, District
- Ward
- Town, Village, Township
- Town Centre
- Provincial Park
- Air Base
- Paved Highways
- Railways

TIMBER PRIORITY AREAS

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4



b. Program Implementation

To encourage the proper management of the forest resource on private lands, the District will:

- give priority to increased efforts in the extension program and encourage municipal governments and private landowners to manage the forest resource through Agreement Forests, agreements under the (*Woodlands Improvement Act*) and the advisory services of District staff;
- upgrade the timber data base on private lands including inventory and annual production figures; and
- provide input to, and review of, municipal official plans, plans of other agencies, and plans of the private sector to designate high capability forested lands for timber production; discourage strip residential development on productive forest sites, including the subdivision of large holdings, and encourage adequate access to the resource.

To ensure proper management on Crown land including maintenance of species composition, production of quality material, and greater fibre utilization, the District will:

- ensure all timber harvesting and timber allocations are done in accordance with approved forest management and operating plans;
- consider the establishment of a Forest Management Agreement for the Weldwood licence;
- control insect infestations by individual spot treatment on Crown land;
- conduct prescribed burns to prepare sites for planting, to dispose of slash, and to reduce or eliminate disease or insect problems as set out in provincial policy;
- conduct stand improvement projects;
- protect genetically superior trees, seed orchards and research plots;
- use regeneration techniques which perpetuate the desired species composition;
- encourage the full utilization of all marketable volumes in tending or thinning projects such as pulpwood, short logs, or fuelwood; and
- encourage the development of proper road access to facilitate the efficient management of forest resources by preparing a roads plan as a component of the five-year operating plan. The roads plan will identify the general location and type of road required, while the annual plan will identify the specific location and type of road.

To accommodate other uses of the forest, Bracebridge District will:

- ensure that the public and all District programs are notified of the initiation of management and operational planning to enable effective input, and upon completion, to circulate all such plans for review and comment;
- apply special management prescriptions prior to the commencement of cutting operations where necessary. Such conditions may include restrictions on specific areas to be cut, lay-out of skidways and landings, or any other condition that the Ministry requires to protect its program interest;
- comply with the requirements for cutting within buffer zones (see pages 47 to 49) and obtain the comments of all District programs, and the approval of the District Manager prior to issuing any cutting approvals;
- in certain circumstances, require licencees to identify the time and sequence of cut; the perimeter of the area; and all sources of sand and gravel;
- advise landowners entering into Woodland Improvement Act agreements of the availability of assistance, and the benefit of planting trees and managing stands, for wildlife habitats.

B: mineral aggregates

1. PROGRAM DIRECTION, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY

The objective for mineral aggregates production is to meet anticipated future demand with minimal disturbance to the natural and cultural resources and the social environment.

The target for mineral aggregates production in Bracebridge District to the year 2000 is to ensure that a total cumulative supply of 27.8 million tonnes (30.8 million tons) of sand, gravel and stone is available. The target represents the minimum supply which must be protected. Beyond this, the Ministry will seek protection of as much additional aggregate as is practicable in the context of other necessary land use planning objectives.

The target provides for a one percent rate of growth annually in the use of aggregates to the year 2000. Aggregate production is primarily devoted to road and building construction, and since this sector is not expected to experience major growth in the foreseeable future, the recent trends appear to provide a realistic basis for the projections.

Total production to date in Bracebridge District is estimated as 33.3 million tonnes (37.0 million tons) of sand and gravel, of which 32.2 million tonnes (35.8 million tons) has come from private land.

The total area of land in the District potentially underlain by mineral aggregate is some 162,000 hectares (400,000 acres) (Figure 2). Achievement of the target requires the use of about 426 hectares (1052 acres), based on historical production rates. There does not appear, therefore, to be any difficulty in meeting future demands. However, care must be taken in using the supply information as it is based upon a very preliminary inventory. The inventory may have accurately identified the location of aggregates, yet little is known of the quantity and quality of individual deposits except that a substantial portion of the 162,000 hectares of aggregates consists of sand plains containing material suitable for fill only. Only a small portion of the area is underlain by higher quality aggregates.

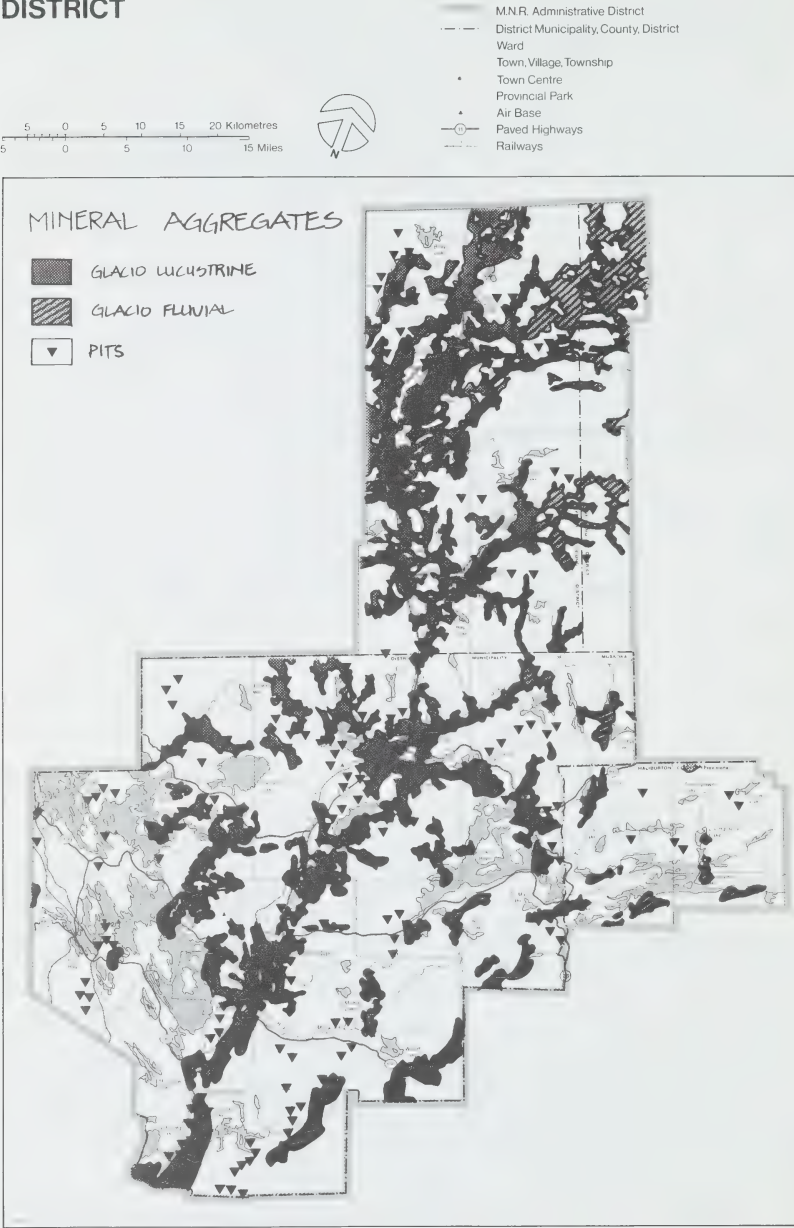
A second difficulty with aggregates in the District is that they are not evenly distributed. Aggregates are extremely plentiful in some areas, while they are in short supply in others.

Finally, it must be recognized that the target provides for anticipated demand only to the year 2000. It does not account for demand after that date, nor does it allow for unexpected increases in demand prior to that date. It thus represents only the minimum supply of aggregates which must be protected to meet needs for the next twenty years.

The general strategy for mineral aggregates is to protect existing areas of production from other uses, which may preclude the extraction of aggregates, to continue to refine the inventory, and to ensure that the value of undeveloped aggregate resources is considered before the land is committed to other uses.

FIGURE 2

BRACEBRIDGE
DISTRICT



2. PROGRAM DIRECTION

a. General

In order to work towards achievement of mineral aggregate targets, the District will:

- protect existing pits and quarries from uses which may preclude expansion and use of the resource;
- ensure that local needs for aggregate are considered before known aggregate resources are committed to other uses;
- determine the quality and quantity of sand, gravel and stone resources and refine estimates of aggregate demand;
- prepare operating plans for all Crown gravel pits;
- ensure the progressive rehabilitation of pits and quarries is consistent with the expected sequential use of the lands; and
- ensure that extractive operations on Crown land have a minimum impact on adjacent land uses and other Ministry programs.

b. Program Implementation

To protect existing pits and aggregate resource areas and to ensure that extractive operations have a minimum impact on adjacent land uses, the District will:

- encourage municipalities to designate areas of aggregate resources on private lands for extraction, and prevent the establishment of incompatible uses;
- restrict the establishment of incompatible uses adjacent to identified aggregates resource areas on Crown land;
- restrict the extraction of aggregates from existing Crown pits,¹ only where it is demonstrated to have an unacceptable adverse impact, and after consideration of the impact caused by the loss of supply for aggregates; and
- review all private sector development proposals or municipal plans that affect the potential extraction of aggregates, and carefully consider the implications of the loss of supply of aggregates material.

To determine the extent of resources and to refine estimates of demand, the District will continue a program of geological evaluation and determination of these resources, and will continue to monitor and review local and provincial demand.

¹ Except where existing pits are located in a management area that expressly precludes the extraction of mineral aggregates.

To ensure that pits and quarries are adequately rehabilitated, the District will:

- require the preparation of an operating plan for each pit or quarry on Crown land authorized by a quarry permit detailing the rehabilitation of the site; and
 - encourage municipalities to require site rehabilitation on private lands consistent with provisions of the Pits and Quarries Control Act.
-

C: minerals and fossil fuels

1. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES, TARGETS AND STRATEGY

The objective for minerals and fossil fuels is to provide for a strengthening of the contribution of these resources to provincial economic development and energy production.

The target for mineral resources in Bracebridge District is to keep open as much land as possible for mineral exploration and development.

There are no operating mines in Bracebridge District and the District has not been an area of active mineral exploration in the past. As a result, very little is known of the mineral potential of the District.

Demands for many minerals will increase in the future. Changing commodity values and technology, as well as increasing demand for alternative energy sources, may alter the relative importance of various minerals, and therefore, the potential of areas to support mining development.

One difficulty related to mineral exploration in the District is that much of the land is privately owned, and in certain areas, is already developed with uses that are incompatible with mineral development. This applies for instance, to most of the lakes that have been developed for cottaging. A second difficulty is the lack of geological mapping and information to permit the definitive identification of areas likely to be suitable for exploration and development.

As a general strategy, the Ministry will maintain as much land as possible available for mineral exploration while not compromising other District program interests. In addition, it will continue to upgrade the data base.

2. PROGRAM DIRECTION

a. General

In order to work toward achievement of mineral resource targets, the District will:

- encourage and assist industry in locating mineral deposits;
- encourage industry to bring new deposits into production as soon as possible;
- protect representative and outstanding geological features; and
- ensure that the impacts of exploration activities on other resources are minimized.

3. Policy Implementation

To provide as much land area as possible for mineral exploration, the District will:

- ensure mineral values are evaluated before a permanent commitment¹ of Crown land to non-mining uses occurs. In areas where significant non-mineral values exist, the Ministry will, where possible, permit exploration under controlled conditions before a permanent disposition is made;
- permit mining exploration in candidate parks under controlled conditions, provided park values are not jeopardized. If exploration results in the discovery of an economic deposit, then accommodation will be made according to the specifics of the situation. Such an accommodation will honour the investment made in exploration, while recognizing the significant park values in the area under question;
- review all Crown lands which have been withdrawn from staking and permit mineral exploration wherever appropriate;
- where appropriate, allow exploration on acquired lands other than candidate parks by means of staking, exploratory licence, or land use permit;
- encourage municipalities and other government agencies, through a public information program, to support mineral exploration and extraction; and

¹This provision does not normally apply to dispositions such as hunt camps or road allowances. Permanent commitment means sale and patent or designation as a park. The identification of candidate parks in the District Strategy and the reservation of mining rights where exploration is permitted under licence is consistent with this policy.

-
- review municipal official plans to ensure that undue restrictions are not placed on mineral exploration activities.

To assist industry in locating suitable deposits, the Ministry will:

- delineate favourable geological areas and expand the geoscience data base through collection, storage and the dissemination of information.

To ensure that mineral exploration activities have a minimal impact on other resources, the Ministry will:

- develop comprehensive guidelines for exploration for voluntary use by the mining industry;
- encourage exploration for minerals subject to conditions which will minimize potential environmental damage;
- give high priority to the evaluation of minerals in specific areas identified to be important for other program interests.
- Further, where mineral exploration will adversely affect other District program interests, the mineral rights on Crown land may be reserved.

To encourage the proper use and management of peat resources, the Ministry will:

- continue to inventory potential peat resources;
- review all proposed peat developments to ensure that all District program interests are protected. On private lands, protection will be sought through the municipal planning process and other applicable legislation. On Crown lands, control will be exercised through the provisions of the Mining Act and the Public Lands Act, and other applicable legislation;
- encourage and control exploration for peat, generally, through the issuance of work permits or quarry permits. In certain circumstances, a licence of occupation may be issued; and
- permit development of viable peat deposits by way of a quarry permit or mining lease.

D: fisheries

1. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES, TARGETS AND STRATEGY

The objective for fisheries management in Bracebridge District is to provide opportunities for recreational and economic benefits consistent with the maintenance of healthy fish communities.

The objective for bait fish is to provide for a moderate increase in harvest. The target is, at a minimum, to maintain the present level of harvest in the District.

The objective for sport fishing is to meet demand within the limits of a wisely managed and rehabilitated resource. The target in Bracebridge District is to maintain the present diversity of fishing recreation (see Figure 3) and to provide 1,095 million recreational opportunities annually by the year 2000, based on a harvest of 0.12 million kilograms (0.27 million pounds) of fish (comprised of 44 percent cold water fish and 56 percent warm water fish).

The quality standard associated with the target (0.25 pounds per occasion) has been adjusted to reflect the most recent estimates of biological productivity. The estimates are based on the assumption that potential production from fresh water is related to the amount of total dissolved solids (i.e. T.D.S.) in the water, average depth of the water, and the surface area of a waterbody. These estimates are tentative and will be refined as new information becomes available. To meet the target requires the use of the total sustainable yield of the fishery in Bracebridge District.

The target for sport fishing, in terms of recreational opportunities,¹ provides for a moderate increase of 20 percent in fishing opportunities

¹ An opportunity is a measure of recreational supply describing the number of times a recreation resource can be used (occasions of use) in a given time period. An opportunity is considered to be one day or less.

between now and the year 2000. This increase is consistent with the anticipated increase in the population of Ontario.

The total annual sustainable yield of desirable fish from inland waters is estimated at 123,000 kilograms (270,000 pounds). However, present production is thought to be considerably less than this due to incomplete natural stocking, over-harvest, an undesirable species composition, and degraded habitats.

Of the total production, cold water fish (trout, whitefish) potentially comprise about 54,000 kilograms (120,000 pounds) or 44 percent. Presently however, cold water fish production may be as low as 10,400 kilograms (23,000 pounds). Cold water fisheries are identified in Figure 3.

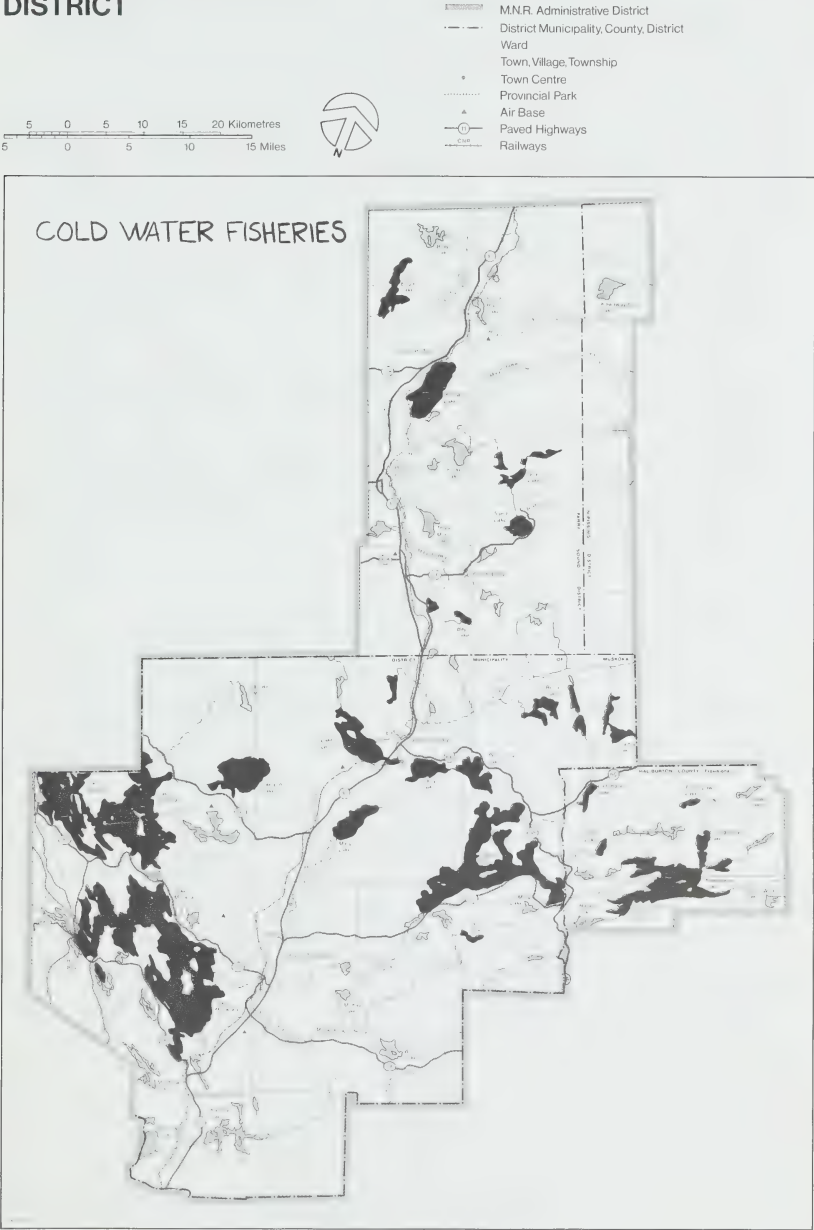
There are four major problems associated with achieving the targets in Bracebridge District. First, careful control of harvest within the limits of the resource is difficult under present management and legislative measures. Second, contaminants, notably acid rain and associated increases in metal concentrations, may completely preclude the restoration of fisheries or even the continued maintenance of existing populations. Third, as hatchery-raised fish are expensive to produce, insufficient stocks are available to permit either the re-establishment of top predator species (trout, bass, pickerel) in degraded communities or for the introduction of such species to waters that have never had populations of sport fish.

A fourth problem is the maintenance of water levels and flows that are compatible with maximum fish production. Maintenance of water levels for fish production often conflict with control of water for navigation, hydro electric generation, and flood control.

The solutions to these problems are very complex and require significant management efforts to overcome. To meet future targets, it is essential that these problems be successfully dealt with. It should be clearly recognized that establishment of optimal conditions for fish production will take long term intensive management efforts.

Accordingly, the general strategy adopted within the Bracebridge District is to restore or rehabilitate existing fisheries which have suffered from over-harvest, or habitat and species composition degradation. This will

FIGURE 3 BRACEBRIDGE DISTRICT



be done, in part, by introducing desirable sports species in those waters best suited to that species, by improving the species composition of fish communities, by attempting to reduce water level fluctuations that have impacts upon fish communities, and by rehabilitating degraded fish habitats.

The successful implementation of this strategy should result in a significant increase in the production of desirable fish and healthier fish communities, especially cold water species, and thus an increase in the quality of recreational and tourism benefits.

2. PROGRAM DIRECTION

a. General

To work toward achievement of the fisheries target, the District will:

- maintain or improve fisheries habitats consistent with fishery requirements;
- establish fish populations consistent with habitat capability; and
- ensure that fish harvest does not exceed the allowable harvest for each waterbody.

b. Program Implementation

To maintain and enhance fisheries habitats, the District will:

- continue to upgrade fisheries data include the identification of important spawning and nursery areas, important littoral zone areas and shoals and streams important to the fishery; and water chemistry data;
- minimize siltation and the transfer of nutrients to waterbodies resulting from Ministry activities, or activities of other government agencies, or the private sector;
- ensure that all applications for dredging and filling, clearing of aquatic vegetation, occupation of Crown lakebed, and construction of private dams are circulated to fish and wildlife District staff for review;
- reclaim appropriate waters to benefit the fish species best suited to that waterbody;
- continue to monitor various aspects of fisheries habitats;
- improve areas suitable for the natural recruitment of fish stocks;
- clean silted spawning beds;
- provide shelter where vegetation is inadequate for fish species requirements;

-
- continue to assess techniques to improve water quality conditions such as artificial destratification of waters;
 - provide information and support to other service programs within the Ministry, to municipalities and other government agencies on the protection of fisheries habitat;
 - promote an informed public and develop methods for positive and effective public involvement in fisheries management;
 - review the effects of water level fluctuations on fish reproduction, and reduce this fluctuation wherever possible; and
 - make input to and review municipal official plans and private sector development proposals in consultation with the Ministry of the Environment, to ensure that water quality is maintained at a level necessary to sustain desired fish species.

To increase and manage the supply of fish stocks, the District will:

- provide extension services to encourage the development of private sector involvement in the development of sports fisheries;
- through the implementation of fisheries management plans, promote fish harvest consistent with, but not greater than, the allowable harvest for each waterbody;
- identify as a component of fisheries management plans harvest limits; monitoring programs to determine fish harvest; and means to control over-exploitation;
- improve access to selected waterbodies and control access to others;
- encourage fishing for non-game species; and
- stock waters with the sports species best suited to those waters in the following order of priority:
 - to rehabilitate degraded fish communities by establishing a self-sustaining population;
 - to maintain existing populations in waters where natural reproduction is incapable of sustaining a viable fishery; and
 - to establish an artificial population in waters incapable of supporting a natural population.

E: wildlife

1. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES, TARGETS AND STRATEGY

The objective for wildlife management in southern Ontario is to provide opportunities for social and economic benefits from wildlife recreation and fur harvest consistent with the maintenance of healthy wildlife populations. More specific objectives are:

Wildlife Recreation:

- to provide opportunities sufficient to maintain the present rate of participation and quality of hunting by residents;
- to maintain the contribution to the economy by non-resident hunters; and
- to provide increased opportunities for viewing wildlife and its habitat.

Fur:

- to sustain the maximum yield from wild furbearer populations while maintaining the present diversity of fur types.

Provincially Rare and Endangered Species:

- to prevent the extinction of any native wildlife species.

To achieve these objectives, targets have been set for big game, small game, and waterfowl hunting, and for fur harvests.

a. Big Game

The target for the year 2000 in Bracebridge District is to provide annually 53,000 opportunities of big game hunting (deer, moose, bear).

The target for big game hunting provides for a moderate increase in use accompanied by an increase in hunting success from 13 percent to 20 percent by the year 2000.¹ Achievement of the target requires a doubling of the

¹This increase in success rate will mean that 1 in every 5 hunters will be successful rather than the present 1 in 7.

present deer and moose populations, while maintaining bear populations at the present levels.

In the face of expanding deer populations, problems will be experienced by moose which will thus encounter an increasing incidence of the meningeal worm (Parelaphostrongylus tenuis). This parasite, often carried by deer, is relatively harmless to them but is often fatal to moose.

b. Small Game and Waterfowl

The target for the year 2000 is to provide annually 63,000 opportunities of small game hunting and 18,000 opportunities of waterfowl hunting.

The target for small game and waterfowl provides a moderate increase of 20 percent in hunting opportunities. The targets provide for present rates of participation in the activities to be maintained at present levels of success.

c. Fur

The target for fur production in Bracebridge District is to maintain furbearer populations capable of sustaining an annual harvest of 18,000 pelts by the year 2000.

The fur target provides for the present harvest to be maintained. However, it is recognized that beaver populations in Bracebridge District are presently high, and it is unlikely that these very high populations can be sustained for the 20 year planning period.

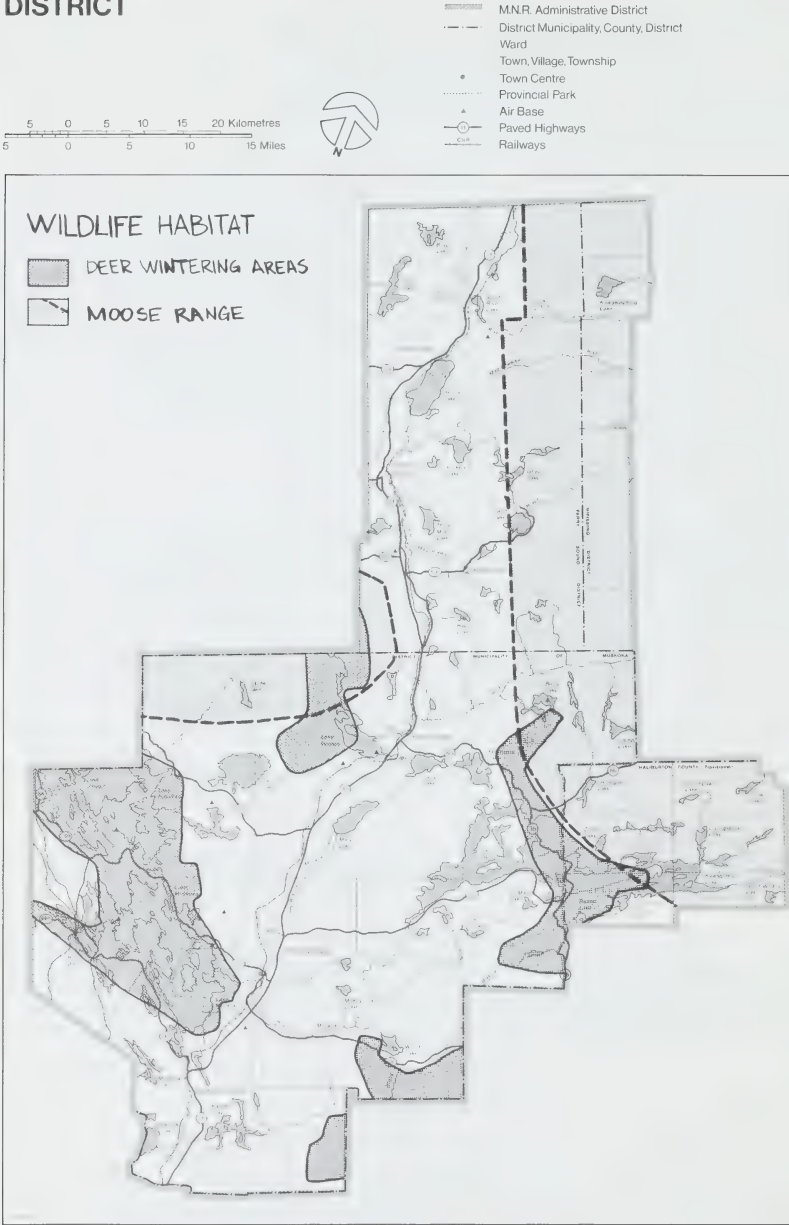
d. Wildlife Viewing

A specific target has not been set for wildlife viewing.

It is expected that the rate of participation in this activity will increase with population growth and the rising interest in this activity. Management programs designed to improve wildlife habitats and increase wildlife populations will benefit wildlife viewing. In addition, however, certain habitats may have to be maintained and some site specific restrictions may have to be placed upon hunting and trapping.

Achievement of the trapping, hunting and viewing targets are dependent upon the maintenance and enhancement of wildlife habitats (Figure 4), particularly deer yards and wetlands on both Crown and private land.

FIGURE 4 BRACEBRIDGE DISTRICT



Additionally, it means that existing access to all lands should be maintained or improved.

2. PROGRAM DIRECTION

a. General

In order to work toward achievement of wildlife targets, the District will:

- protect wildlife species;
- maintain and enhance critical wildlife habitats, and create new habitats where appropriate;
- protect identified winter deer yards by:
 - managing resources within winter yarding areas to meet the needs of wintering deer, including supplementary feeding, browse cutting, trail packing, and predator control;
 - controlling activities which would have adverse impact upon deer populations or habitat requirements within deer yards on Crown lands, including the disposition of Crown rights;¹
 - managing vegetation within deer yards in accordance with approved deer yard management plans;
 - permitting extraction of aggregates, recreational trail development, and development of access roads in deer yards, only where it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the District Manager that such activity would not have adverse impact on deer populations or their habitat; and
 - controlling the flooding of good deer wintering areas caused by the activities of beaver;
- enhance summer range for deer throughout the District consistent with good forest management by encouraging:
 - a diversity and interspersion of cover vegetation;
 - sufficient disturbance of the forest by logging to maintain a large proportion of range (ideally greater than 30 percent) in a state of early succession;
 - the creation of 5 to 15 percent of the range in permanent forest openings located in proximity to deer yards and interspersed throughout the range. These openings will be less than 2 hectares (5 acres) in size, irregular in shape and maintained in grasses and other herbaceous plants;

¹It is not intended that mineral rights be reserved. However, where mineral exploration within deer yards creates problems, the Ministry will consider the reservation of mineral rights.

-
- clear-cutting in tolerant and intolerant hardwood stands, providing the size of clear cut does not exceed 100 acres; and
 - the management of oak stands to add to the food supply (acorns) for deer;
 - enhance habitat for moose, in the areas shown on Figure 8 consistent with forest management practice, by:
 - encouraging as much disturbance as possible to hardwood stands through selective timber harvest in moose range, to provide animals with early successional plant communities;
 - protecting and maintaining 10 to 15 percent conifer cover, notably balsam, fir and spruce, evenly distributed throughout the range, in patches greater than 6 hectares (15 acres) in size;
 - encouraging the maintenance of shelter stands to promote a mixed wood species composition, with at least 30 percent of the stand in conifers that are over 6 metres in height;
 - controlling road access and recreational trail development; and
 - identifying and protecting aquatic feeding areas and mineral licks;
 - improve small game habitat by encouraging the maintenance of fence rows and small clearings, and by creating drumming sites for grouse where required;
 - improve waterfowl habitats by:
 - promoting the management and maintenance of wetlands suitable for waterfowl production;
 - draining unproductive beaver ponds;
 - providing duck nesting boxes in suitable areas where existing nesting trees are scarce;
 - preserving nesting trees in buffer zones; and
 - regulating water level fluctuations where possible to provide suitable production areas;
 - improve the habitat for non-game species by:
 - encouraging the management of habitats to provide a diversity of plant communities;
 - establishing sufficient buffer zones around critical habitat;
 - ensuring nesting trees and denning sites are retained throughout the District;
 - ensuring no disturbance of nesting and other critical wildlife habitats by logging or other land uses during critical times of the year; and
 - encouraging private landowners to manage lands consistent with wildlife habitat management practices;

-
- manage furbearers and their habitat by:
 - encouraging the retention of all lands and waters presently used to produce furbearing animals;
 - promoting greater use of private lands for furbearer production;
 - promoting the management and maintenance of wetlands suitable for furbearer production;
 - increasing production through increased management of wetlands;
 - maintaining and increasing cover and food supply, particularly poplar, bordering all waterbodies;
 - retaining registered traplines on Crown lands;
 - promoting private land Fur Management Areas, and trapping on a contiguous area of land;
 - promoting stable water levels wherever possible; and
 - promoting better fur harvest, fur management and conservation practices.

b. Program Implementation

To protect wildlife areas, the District will:

- continue to inventory and assess wildlife populations and incorporate relevant information into the District Land Use Strategy and management plans, as appropriate;
- prepare management plans for all critical wildlife habitats. Where critical habitat areas are located on private land, provide information and assistance or enter into wildlife management agreements with the property owners to ensure that habitat is protected;
- monitor the impact of mineral exploration activity within deer yards and, where necessary, reserve the mineral rights to protect deer habitat;
- acquire critical habitat areas where necessary and feasible;
- ensure that fish and wildlife staff review all activities proposed within deer yards and moose range;
- provide wildlife input to, and review of, municipal official plans and private sector development proposals; and
- provide review of all applications for control or alteration of water levels and shoreline improvements by wildlife staff.

To ensure the proper management of habitat necessary for wildlife production, the District will ensure that:

- timber management and operating (including roads) plans are reviewed by wildlife staff;

- where management plans do not exist, all relevant annual work plans will be circulated to wildlife staff;
- timber harvesting within deer yards is carried out in accordance with fish and wildlife prescriptions and all marking is done in conjunction with wildlife staff;
- where required, contractors are hired, or incentives are paid to timber operators, to conduct specific wildlife range management;
- proper wildlife management prescriptions are established in all buffer zones prior to cutting approvals or any other management work;
- the wildlife extension program is continued and expanded to increase public understanding and involvement in wildlife management. Specifically, District staff will continue to make available relevant information, will make presentations to, and seek the advice of, interested groups, and will provide habitat management consulting services to landowners; and
- consideration is given to wildlife management potential in the preparation of Woodland Improvement Act agreements.

To protect and manage wildlife populations, the District will:

- undertake supplementary deer feeding where necessary;
- encourage the public to participate in cooperative supplementary feeding programs where warranted;
- provide assistance to landowners in dealing with nuisance animals;
- establish a monitoring program to assess the impact of management programs on wildlife populations; and
- develop a public education program to encourage better management and use of the resource.

To contribute to the achievement of overall Ministry objectives within Bracebridge, all wildlife management plans will be circulated to all District programs for comment.

F: provincial parks

1. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES, TARGETS AND STRATEGY

The objectives of the provincial parks system are:

- i) Protection:
to protect provincially significant elements of the natural and cultural landscape of Ontario;
- ii) Heritage Appreciation:
to provide opportunities for exploration and appreciation of the natural and cultural outdoor heritage of Ontario;
- iii) Recreation:
to provide provincial park outdoor recreation opportunities ranging from high intensity day use to low intensity wilderness experiences; and
- iv) Tourism:
to provide Ontario's residents and out-of-province visitors with opportunities to discover and experience the distinctive regions of the Province.

To achieve these objectives, the targets established for Bracebridge District are:

1) Protection:

Earth Science

to represent the provincially significant geological elements of the landscape. Specific emphasis will be placed on features of the Ontario Gneiss Belt and the Wisconsin stage of glaciation.

Life Science:

to represent the provincially significant plant and animal diversity found in Hills site districts 8 and 9 in site region 5E.¹

¹This is a system devised to classify similar landscape and vegetation types throughout the province.

Historical

to represent the provincially significant prehistorical and historical theme segments found in Bracebridge District. Specific emphasis will be on the timber era, shield agriculture, and recreation opportunities.

ii) Heritage Appreciation:

to maximize opportunities for exploration and appreciation of the natural and cultural outdoor heritage of Bracebridge District, through a wide variety of interpretive and educational programs.

iii) Recreation/Tourism:

to provide by the year 2000 the following recreational opportunities for residents and visitors:¹

Swimming	- 71,000
Picnicking	- 26,000
Camping	- 202,000
Back-country	- 1,000

The Ministry recognizes that outdoor recreation is important for tourism and for social well-being. It also recognizes that physical, biological, cultural and historical resources are important elements in the environment and that representative and unique components should be protected.

Provincial parks are an important means of providing recreational and tourism benefits, and of protecting important resources. The provincial parks system is permanent, distinctive, representative, varied and accessible. It will be complementary to private sector facilities and to those of other public agencies.

The provincial parks objectives will be achieved through specific park classes and zones within these classes. There are six classes of provincial parks: wilderness, nature reserve, historic, natural environment, waterway, and recreation. Protection targets may also be achieved through agreements with other agencies and private landowners.

¹Swimming and picnicking have been selected to represent the day use activities which occur in provincial parks. Car camping represents extended use activities and canoe tripping represents back-country recreation. Other activities occur and are important in provincial parks, however these selected activities are measurable. In 1980 the following number of recreation opportunities were provided: swimming 35,500, picnicking 17,700, camping 141,000, back-country 400.

Targets for provincial parks recognize the importance of Bracebridge District as a recreation and tourism area, and the significance of the recreational resources of the District. The target provides for an increase in the provision of provincial park recreation. Figure 4 shows existing and proposed recreational facilities.

The targets also ensure that other important natural and cultural features are protected and made available for public use and appreciation. When studies of earth and life sciences, and historical resources are completed, additional areas for nature reserves, historical parks, or special agreements may be identified. One area currently being examined is the Kawagama and Kimball Lakes area which is dealt with further on page 54. Any such additions to the park system will relate directly to the distinctive nature of provincial parks.

There are a number of challenges to the Ministry related to the establishment of new parks in Bracebridge District. These include:

- the appropriate treatment of traditional uses displaced when parks are established, including the forest industry, hunters, and trappers;
- the difficulty and high cost of acquiring private lands; and
- the potential land use conflicts with adjacent landowners when new parks are established.

2. PROGRAM DIRECTION

a. General

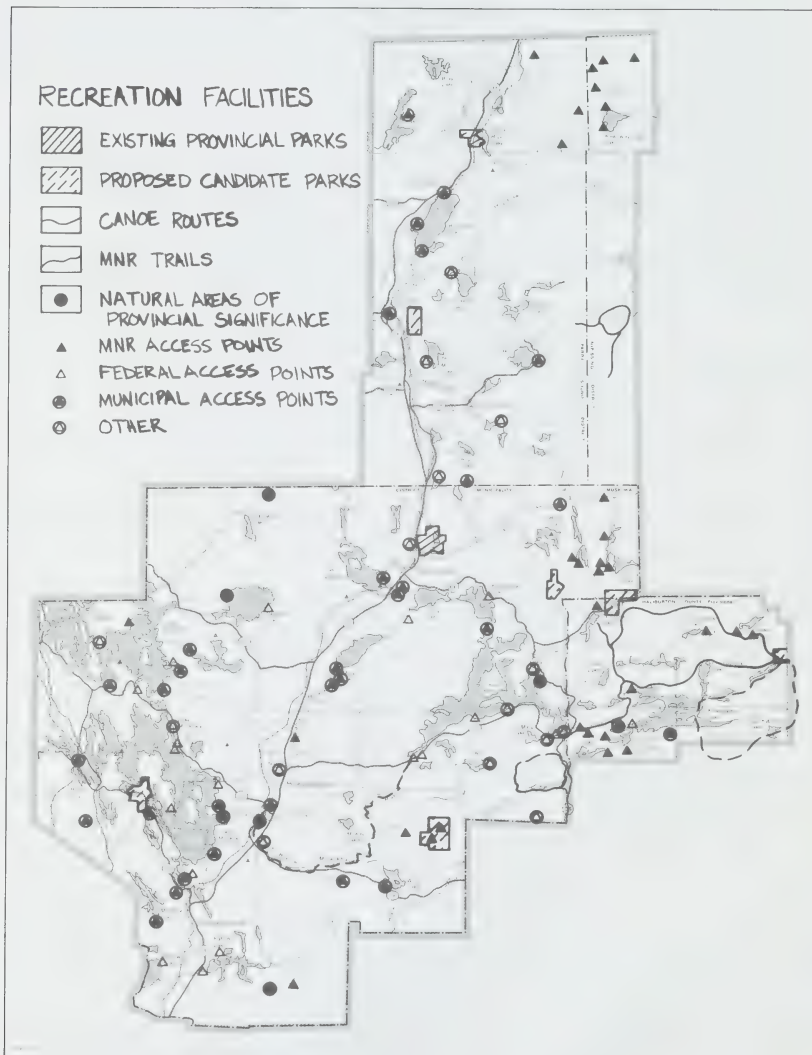
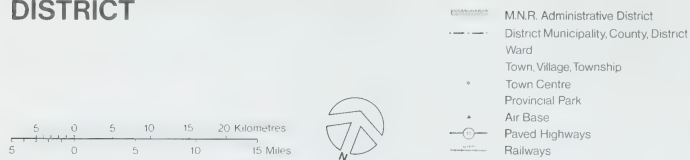
To achieve the target in Bracebridge District, the Ministry plans to:¹

- maintain Arrowhead Provincial Park as a natural environment class park;
- maintain Mikisew Provincial Park as a recreational class park;
- ensure that park values in the following proposed candidate parks are protected:²
 - Hardy Lake, Bigwind and Bauer as natural environment parks;
 - Chetwynd as a recreational park;
 - Ragged Falls and portions of the Oxtongue River as a waterway class park; and
 - the Dividing Lake reserve as an addition to Algonquin Provincial Park;

¹Table 2 identifies in detail how the existing and proposed candidate parks contribute to the achievement of the parks targets.

²A portion of the Big East River has been considered for inclusion as a waterway park. Better options exist, however, to achieve the target. Therefore, it is proposed not to include this area in the parks system.

FIGURE 5
BRACEBRIDGE
DISTRICT



-
- encourage uses and facilities in these proposed candidate parks, which complement the achievement of park objectives; uses which have no significant impact on the long term achievement of park objectives will be permitted with judicious controls; and uses which would conflict with the long term achievement of park objectives will be prohibited; and
 - protect a number of areas outside the parks system.

In addition, the Ministry will:

- develop and conduct management activities within provincial parks in accordance with approved master plans;
- encourage private lands adjacent to parks to be managed in a manner consistent with the objectives for the park;
- ensure that activities on Crown land adjacent to provincial parks are conducted in such a manner as to minimize an undesirable impact on park users; and
- provide for adequate visual and noise buffers adjacent to park boundaries where necessary.

b. Program Implementation

To implement these provisions, the District will:

- develop master plans (which will guide all management activities), for all parks;
- require involvement of all programs in the preparation and review of master plans;
- prepare interim management guidelines for all candidate parks in conjunction with all programs to establish permitted and non-permitted activities;
- provide input to, and review of, municipal, private sector, and other agency plans to protect important representative resources located on private lands;
- where appropriate, enter into agreements with private landowners or other agencies to protect site values and to provide access to areas of provincial interest that are located on private land;
- consider permitting mineral exploration and mineral extraction in candidate parks under controlled conditions in accordance with the mineral resource policy of this Strategy (page 16); and
- review all management plans and work plans in areas within, or adjacent to, existing parks to minimize potential land use and water conflicts.

G: general recreation

1. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES, TARGETS AND STRATEGY

In addition to providing recreation and protection through the provincial parks program the Ministry has an interest in providing or encouraging these benefits from all land, although specific program objectives have yet to be developed.

To provide for recreation activities involving resources other than fish and wildlife and taking place outside provincial parks, the following tentative objectives have been identified:

- to provide and to encourage a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities ranging from day use to back-country experiences;
- to provide an economic contribution through tourism; and
- to encourage the protection of natural and cultural features of regional or local significance.

Tentative annual targets in Bracebridge District for general recreation on Crown land are:

Recreation:

- to provide by the year 2000:

Back-country (canoe tripping)	-	29,000 opportunities (310 km)
Snowmobiling	-	116,000 opportunities (560 km)
Cross-country skiing	-	34,000 opportunities (80 km)
Hiking	-	55,000 opportunities (220 km)
Access points	-	A target has not been calculated. However, access should be provided to meet the needs of the outdoor recreational program.

Protection:

- to aid in the protection of earth science, life science, historical and archaeological resources of regional and local significance.

Tourism:

- to protect the significant tourism landscape of Bracebridge District and encourage and support complementary private sector development.

These targets were developed to indicate the desirability of existing and additional opportunities. However, the Ministry has relied in the past, and will continue to rely, upon other public agencies and the private sector for the provision of many of those opportunities. This means that achievement of these targets will be contingent upon the participation of these groups.

Muskoka's lakes are a significant recreational resource. The general objectives and targets recognize that the provincial interest is not limited to areas specifically designated as parks, but includes the entire Muskoka area. The objectives and targets recognize, as well, that the remainder of Bracebridge District is also an important recreational area, and that these values should be protected. The Ministry, therefore, in conjunction with other government agencies and the private sector has the responsibility to provide for a wide variety of outdoor recreational activities within the District, ranging from high intensity day use to low intensity back-country experiences.

The following chart summarizes the recreational opportunities available and the targets for Crown land outside provincial parks in Bracebridge District.

Recreational Activities	Current Opportunities (Length)	Additional Opportunities (Length)	Total Target Opportunities (Length)
Back-country Recreation (canoe-tripping)	16,000 (160 km)	13,000 (150 km)	29,000 (310 km)
Snowmobiling	161,000 (770 km)	-	116,000 (560 km)
Cross-country skiing	43,000 (100 km)	-	34,000 (80 km)
Hiking	-	55,000 (220 km)	55,000 (220 km)

Note: Snowmobiling and cross-country skiing targets have already been exceeded by existing supply.

2. PROGRAM DIRECTION

a. General

To pursue these targets, the District will:

- conduct its activities so as to maintain or enhance the quality of the recreational landscape;

-
- retain existing canoe routes and trails;
 - participate in efforts to improve the coordination of assistance programs by cooperating with, and providing assistance to, municipalities and private organizations in acquiring, planning and developing recreational areas and facilities;
 - wherever possible, maintain flexibility in the management of Crown land in order to accommodate Crown land recreational areas and facilities;
 - wherever possible, maintain flexibility in the management of Crown land in order to accommodate Crown land recreational requirements identified in the future; and
 - accommodate the need of Crown land recreation by complementary scheduling of timber operations and locations of access roads.

b. Program Implementation

To implement the general recreational policies, the District will:

- require that all management plans be circulated to the parks program for review; and
- recognize the general Crown land recreational requirements in all management planning, and provide for the incorporation of special management policies where necessary.

H: water management

1. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES, TARGETS AND OBJECTIVE

The objective is designed to control water levels in such a manner as to accommodate, to the extent possible, conflicting demands on the resource, including fish and wildlife production, hydro-electric power generation, flood control, and recreation needs.

Within Bracebridge District, the programs's primary responsibility is the control of water levels on approximately 50 percent of the water area, including the largest and most recreationally significant lakes (see

Figure 6). These waterbodies have been artificially regulated for many years, and do not reflect natural water levels. However, water levels are controlled in accordance with existing agreements with cottagers associations and Ontario Hydro, specifying maximum and minimum elevations that restrict flexibility.

The management of the water control system presents a number of problems in the District. The demands on the water resource have changed significantly over time. Originally parts of the system were designed for transportation and for the booming and transport of timber. This was modified in later years for the development of hydro-electric generating stations; and, more recently, for fisheries, recreational and residential needs.

As the system does not have a large storage capacity, it is subject to significant fluctuations in water levels. These fluctuations, as well as efforts to manage the system for multiple purposes, have resulted in impacts upon residential and recreational uses, fisheries and hydro-electric generation.

The general strategy of the District will be to closely examine the means to identify and to improve the regulation of water, and to improve its capability for flood forecasting.

2. PROGRAM DIRECTION

a. General

In order to carry out this Strategy, the District will:

- regulate water levels on controlled waterbodies in accordance with the Hackner-Holden agreement¹ between the Ministry and Ontario Hydro for hydro-electric generation, flood control, recreation, and maintenance of fisheries habitat;
- regulate water levels for multiple use and flood protection within the limits established by the agreements;
- recognize the implications of water level fluctuations on fish and wildlife resources and, to the extent possible, regulate water levels to achieve minimum fluctuation;
- ensure that the impact on fish and wildlife resources are fully con-

¹The Hackner-Holden agreement is an agreement between the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ontario Hydro affecting the regulation of water in the Muskoka watershed. Originally signed in 1940, it was revised in 1969 to account for uses other than hydro-electric generation.

FIGURE 6 BRACEBRIDGE DISTRICT

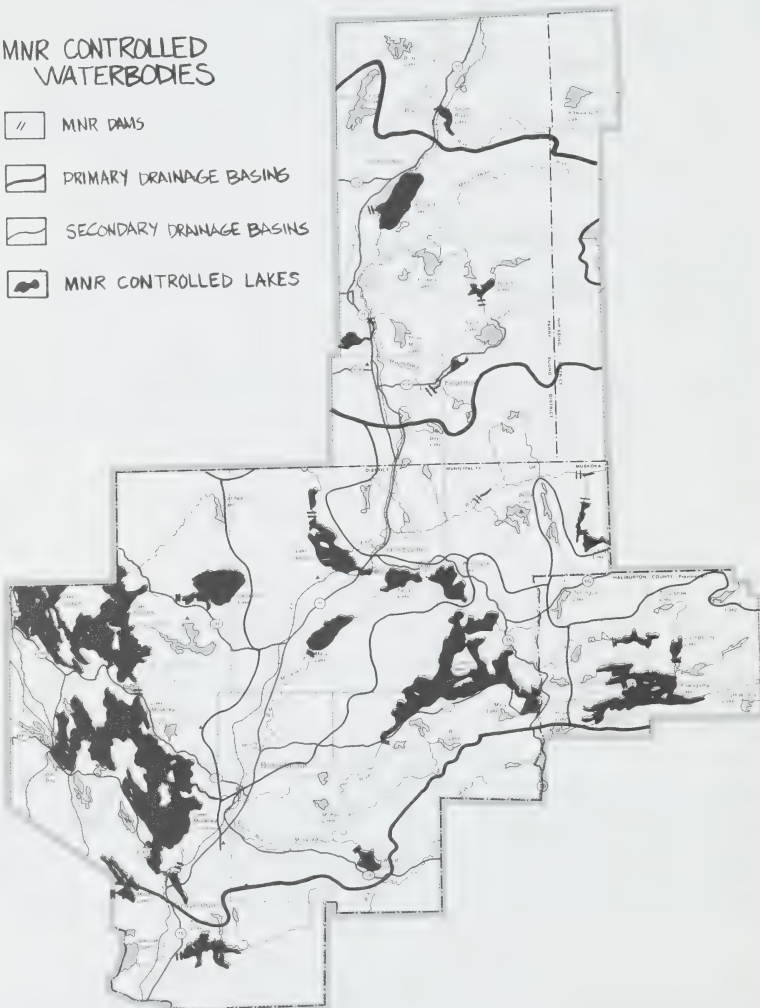
5 0 5 10 15 20 Kilometres
5 0 5 10 15 Miles



- M.N.R. Administrative District
- District Municipality, County, District
- Ward
- Town, Village, Township
- Town Centre
- Provincial Park
- Air Base
- Paved Highways
- Railways

MNR CONTROLLED WATERBODIES

- MNR DAMS
- PRIMARY DRAINAGE BASINS
- SECONDARY DRAINAGE BASINS
- MNR CONTROLLED LAKES



-
- sidered prior to the regulation of waterbodies not previously regulated, or where changes in present levels or schedules of regulation are proposed;
- institute emergency measures for flooding in accordance with the approved flood contingency plan; and
 - ensure that all District program interests and adverse impacts upon the environment and other users are considered in the construction of dams, or in the approval of private dam proposals.
- a. Program Implementation
- To implement the intent of these provisions, the District will:
- improve the monitoring of water levels on reservoir lakes and adjoining rivers;
 - develop operations and forecasting models for the Muskoka system to enable better control of water in the system, to benefit all uses, and to effect more accurate predictions of water flows;
 - require that all changes in the present regulation of the Muskoka watershed be circulated to all programs, reviewed by the District Manager, and approved by the Regional Director and other affected agencies;
 - recognize that regulation of water levels in previously unregulated waterbodies, or changes in the present regulatory levels is subject to the Environmental Assessment Act; and
 - encourage municipalities to prepare and maintain Flood Emergency Response Plans.
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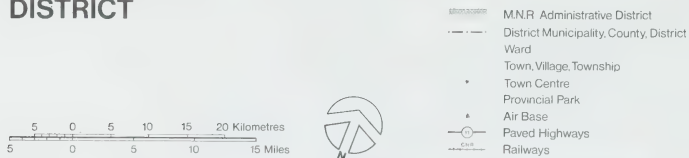
I: land management

1. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES, TARGETS AND STRATEGY

The objective of land management in the Ministry is to facilitate the orderly development and conservation of Ontario's land and water resources for the continuous social and economic benefit of the people of Ontario.

Owing to the service-oriented nature of the lands program, specific targets have not been assigned.

FIGURE 7 BRACEBRIDGE DISTRICT



The general strategy for land management is to act in a coordinating role within the Ministry in presenting Ministry concerns to the public and outside agencies, and to administer all Crown lands in the best public interest (see Figure 7). As such, the policies applicable to land management are an important means to implement all Ministry programs.

2. PROGRAM DIRECTION

a. General

To work towards achievement of Ministry objectives, the District will:

- manage public lands consistent with the requirements of all Ministry programs;
- acquire private lands which are required, in order to meet Ministry objectives through purchase, donation, or dedication. This acquisition may take the form of outright ownership, or may consist of a lesser interest in the land, such as lease or easement;
- review all acquired lands annually to ensure that they are still required for Ministry programs. Those lands which are no longer required will be identified as surplus and disposed of;
- manage all acquired lands before they are required by a Ministry program in accordance with approved interim property management plans, and in such a manner as not to compromise the proposed final use for the lands;
- require interim property management plans in order to identify permitted uses consistent with the objectives for which the property was purchased, with priorities, and with standards for management;
- dispose of public lands wherever appropriate, to assist in the achievement of Ministry objectives, and to provide for their orderly economic development. Disposition will only be considered where there will be significant benefits to the Crown and the public;
- authorization will not be granted, nor will disposition of Crown lands be considered, for:
 - new private recreation camps (hunting, fishing);
 - seasonal residential, rural residential, or remote cottage development;
 - commercial outpost camps for the purpose of hunting;
- permit existing authorized uses of Crown land to remain, providing that they do not conflict with the intended use of the land, or violate the terms and conditions of tenure;
- remove unauthorized non-conforming uses;
- review, and provide input to, the plans and proposals of outside agencies and the public, to ensure that they will not adversely affect the Ministry's ability to achieve its objectives, and to ensure that the

provincial hazard lands policy is incorporated, to prevent loss of life and to minimize property damage and social disruption; and

- operate and manage waste disposal sites on Crown land in unorganized townships in accordance with approved management plans.

b. Program Implementation

To implement the intent of the above policies, the District will:

- give priority to the consolidation of existing units in the acquisition of lands for Ministry programs. Additional acquisition proposals will be prioritized annually on a District basis;
- circulate proposals to declare lands as surplus for review by all District programs;
- prior to the disposition of Crown lands;
 - ensure that the proposed use is consistent with the policies of this Strategy;
 - review the need, economic impact, and compatibility of the proposal with existing and proposed adjacent uses;
 - ensure that the terms and conditions of tenure are consistent with the identified need for the land;
 - accommodate municipal requirements, and commercial or industrial development within municipalities by permit, licence, lease or qualified sale and patent;
 - generally dispose of lands for pipelines by easement;
 - dispose of land to other provincial ministries or to the federal government by means of Orders-in-Council;
 - generally require that the proposed and actual use of the land is consistent with municipal zoning by-laws, and provincial and federal agency plans;¹
 - approve existing uses which conform to the District Land Use Strategy and management plans in accordance with existing statutes and policies;
- require, where the use of an authorized site has changed from that which was approved, that it be phased out over an appropriate period of time, and relocated to a more suitable area, or that the terms, conditions, and rental rates of the tenure document be revised to accommodate the existing use;
- ensure that private land development proposals are circulated to, and reviewed by, all programs to ensure that they will not unduly affect the Ministry's ability to achieve its objectives and to ensure that inappropriate development does not occur on lands which may be hazardous by reason of susceptibility to flooding or unstable topography;

¹ Except where the activity or use of land is established by legislation (i.e. mineral exploration).

-
- circulate all requests for disposition, approvals of private dams, authorization of unauthorized occupations, application for dredge and fill, issuance of quarry permits, and approvals for roads over Crown land to all programs for review and comment;
 - prepare five-year operating plans for all waste management sites in unorganized townships;
 - consider applications for disposition of road allowances, and generally not object, providing such disposition:
 - involves only the area shown above the present high water mark;
 - does not result in the loss or deterioration of critical resource areas; and
 - does not involve areas traditionally used by the public for access to or egress from, the water (e.g. portages).

A: integrated resource management

Through the preparation of Ministry land use strategies, it has become apparent that a large degree of integration must occur if Ministry objectives are to be achieved. Integration must occur both in the use of a finite resource base, and in the delivery of programs.

Owing to the importance of integrated resource management, the Ministry has established the following objective and policy direction:

Programs will be integrated to ensure the efficient use of land and water to achieve Ministry objectives.

To do so, the Ministry will:

- apply the concept of multiple use to land and water management. This means that the Ministry will:
 - normally require or encourage two or more compatible activities on the same major area concurrently or sequentially over time; and
 - recognize that, in some circumstances, management of areas for a single purpose such as extraction, protection, or recreation is necessary; and
- ensure that each program contributes, to the extent possible, to the achievement of all Ministry objectives. Individual area management plans, including water management plans, will be directed towards achieving as many Ministry objectives as possible to ensure integrated management and increased efficiency.

This principle of management integration is reflected throughout the preceding section on Program Policies. In addition, the following policies on buffers and access roads are designed to assist the Ministry in the achievement of its program objectives.

B: buffers

The Ministry of Natural Resources' Bracebridge District will provide, or encourage the provision of, buffers to:

- maintain and enhance the recreation-tourism landscape of the District;
- reduce conflicts between recreational activities and facilities; and resource production;
- contribute to provision of wildlife habitat;
- protect specific fisheries resources; and
- increase the compatibility of resource production activities with non-resource production land uses.

Buffers are areas of land surrounding specific facilities, activity areas or resource features, wherein certain resource management activities or land uses are either prohibited or constrained to ensure that objectives for buffered facilities are not impaired.

Buffers placed along major transportation and access routes, on recreational lakes and waterways, and on some of the major trails, contribute to the maintenance of the recreation landscape.

Buffers ensure unhindered passage on recreational trail systems, a variety of habitat conditions and therefore the opportunity for greater wildlife variety, and protection for fisheries by maintaining shade, and by minimizing siltation and nutrient enrichment of streams and lakes with significant fisheries values. Furbearers are also protected by the retention of cover along the shorelines of waterbodies.

Public opposition in the past has prevented, or severely hindered, mineral exploration and the management and extraction of natural resources. Buffers contribute in a positive way to softening conflicts between land uses, thereby ensuring continued opportunities for resource management.

Buffers are not 'no use zones', where all land uses or activities are prohibited. Instead, the prime purpose or intent of a buffer is to provide for the diminishing effects of one conflicting land use with another.

To provide for the maintenance of recreational environments and site aesthetics, and to protect fisheries and wildlife habitat, the District will require all management activities to be conducted in accordance with the following standards and prescriptions:

1. Buffers will be generally instituted within:
 - 120 metres¹ adjacent to:
 - lakes, rivers and streams;
 - provincially and municipally maintained roads;
 - Ministry access roads with existing or potential for significant recreational use;
 - 35 metres¹ on each side of permanent or designated snowmobile trails, hiking or cross-country ski trails, and portages.
2. Buffers will be divided into two zones -- a minimum disturbance zone and a modified activity zone. The extent of each zone will be based upon consideration of local terrain conditions and the activities to be protected.
3. Management prescriptions within buffer zones will be developed prior to approval being granted for management activities. For forest management activities, such prescriptions will be identified in operating plans, annual plans, and conditions stipulated in licences and cutting approvals.
4. Management prescriptions will be reviewed by all programs and approved by the District Manager. This review will be guided by each program's specific requirements.
5. Within the minimum disturbance zone, standards for management are:
 - timber extraction and the construction of roads normally will not be permitted. However, in special circumstances, consideration may be given to discrete removal of selected individual trees, or the carrying out of specific management, to maintain stand vigour associated with objectives, such as cover maintenance and recreation aesthetics. The accumulation of slash, skid trails and roads, and the operation of mechanized equipment normally will not be permitted;
 - the extraction of aggregates within this zone normally will not be permitted. However, in circumstances of critical supply, a gravel

¹These distances are measured on the ground from the treed edge adjacent to the feature, where 'treed' denotes commercial species.

pit may be opened up to within 100 feet of a waterbody and 100 feet of a municipal or provincial roadway for a short time under strict site plan control, including rehabilitation suitable to the site;

- management efforts in this zone will be directed toward ensuring that mineral exploration activity takes place in accordance with the general intent and purpose of the zone. In this regard, a public information program will be initiated, and special guidelines will be developed for use by the mining industry;
- mine development on the surface, except for certain support functions, will not be permitted within 400 feet of waterbodies, or 300 feet of provincial highways. Accordingly, surface rights will not be granted in mining leases within such areas.

6. Within the modified activity zone, management will require use of techniques which are more sensitive to associated land uses (being buffered), than standard levels of resource management. This zone will only be used where silvicultural systems can be developed that permit resource extraction, while clearly achieving the objective of maintaining the aesthetic quality of the landscape or adjacent resource protection.

C: access roads

The District may construct or permit the construction of roads on Crown land for resource management and extraction, recreational, and fire protection purposes. In so doing, the District will:

- prepare a long range roads plan as a component of forest operating plans that identify road corridors and resource management considerations which must be accounted for in the construction of roads;
 - ensure that forest access roads on Crown lands are constructed in accordance with the roads plan, and are approved in accordance with the Planning Approval Procedure (Table 1);
 - require that other roads over Crown land be approved in accordance with the Planning Approval Procedure (Table 1);

-
- close roads to public access where necessary;
 - prescribe special road construction and maintenance standards to protect special program interests;
 - not construct roads within Management Areas without review by District staff of the affected program, and subject to the approval of the District Manager;
 - not construct roads within shoreline buffer areas, except where it can be demonstrated that alternative alignments do not exist, and be subject to the approval of the District Manager;
 - ensure that roads required for resource extractions, permitted as an interim use in proposed candidate parks, are consistent in terms of type and location with the long term objectives of the proposed park;
 - in the planning or approval of roads over Crown land constructed by individual members of the public or private companies, consider the use, type, volume of traffic, life expectancy of the road and surrounding land uses and prescribe construction and maintenance standards when necessary;
 - where roads are constructed by members of the public or by private companies, the District will not maintain these facilities. These roads will remain open to the public except in times of emergency. Responsibility for maintenance will be with the proponent;
 - construct Ministry roads in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act;
 - maintain Ministry roads only to a standard necessary for resource extraction and use. The District will establish the appropriate level of maintenance;
 - construct roads so as not to cause erosion or siltation into waterbodies;
 - avoid construction of roads which may adversely affect significant wetland habitats. Where alternatives do not exist, the need for such roads may be reviewed on an individual basis by fish and wildlife staff, and be subject to the approval of the District Manager;
 - encourage the full use of trees removed from rights-of-way, including their use as fuelwood;
 - generally not dispose of Crown lands for road locations, except to municipalities or other government agencies;
 - review the existing road network on a regular basis. Roads no longer required or which present conflicts with District programs will be considered for closure;
 - upon road closure, consider all other Ministry uses prior to rehabilitation of the area;

-
- identify incompatible uses of roads, and restrict such uses where necessary;
 - ensure that appropriate road construction materials are used in the construction of all major access roads;
 - ensure that all water crossings are reviewed on an individual, site specific basis by fish and wildlife staff, and in the case of navigable waterbodies, by parks and lands staff, and appropriate outside agencies.
-

D: resource management areas

Program management activities will be conducted throughout the District in accordance with the foregoing policies of the Strategy. In certain areas, however, special management practices are necessary.

The District has been divided into management areas in an effort to prioritize management efforts to achieve the objectives and targets of each program. This designation clearly recognizes:

- the unique sensitivity of some sites (deer yards, spawning areas);
- areas may shift over time, freeing some areas from special management requirements, but establishing new ones; and
- the wide range of special management requirements associated with various resource concerns.

These areas are shown in Figure 8 and all management activities must be undertaken in accordance with the specific policies identified in the following pages.

Special management areas have been designated without regard for land ownership. On public land, the management prescription for the area indicates the action which will be practiced by the Ministry. On private land, the management prescription for the area indicates the actions which the Ministry will encourage in support of its objectives for resource management.

MANAGEMENT AREA 1 (Multiple Resource Management)

Description

This is the largest management area and occurs throughout the District.

Intent

Within this area, resource management will be directed towards multiple-use management. Standard management practices combined with the concept of sequential use will enable the Ministry to take full advantage of the potential of the natural resources.

Management Strategy

- Ministry activities within this area will take place in accordance with the direction identified in the preceding sections of this Strategy.
- generally, outdoor recreational and land management activities and utilization of timber, mineral, aggregates and fur resources may be undertaken according to accepted resource management techniques.
- the Ministry will advocate resource management on private land and ensure that appropriate consideration is given to the impact of this upon adjacent land uses.

MANAGEMENT AREA 2 (Special Fisheries Management)

Description

An isolated area in Joly and Paxton Townships includes several lakes of importance for fisheries research and long term management.

Intent

Management activities within this area will ensure that the area remains relatively inaccessible to the general public, and that a high level of water quality is maintained.

Management Strategy

- construction of access roads will be limited to winter haul roads.
- winter haul roads will be closed and rehabilitated after use to ensure continued restricted access.
- buffers will be strictly applied to all streams and waterbodies.
- no further disposition of Crown rights will occur except for mineral exploration.

Description

The land area adjacent to Algonquin Park approximately four miles in width, including all lands within the territorial district of Nipissing in Bracebridge District and parts of Finlayson, McClintock, Livingstone and Havelock Townships.

Intent

Management activities, especially the construction of access roads in this zone, are of concern due to the potential for creating undesirable access into Algonquin Park or for establishing conflicting land uses.

It is the intent of the Ministry to establish management strategies for this area that will ensure that:

- inappropriate access to Algonquin Park is not created;
- the most appropriate road network is developed in the future; and
- potential resource extraction/recreational conflicts are minimized.

Management Strategy

This zone will be treated as a Special Study Area with appropriate strategies for management established by amendment to this Strategy at the time of the first five-year review (1987).

The following interim management strategies to apply in this area:

- all management activities will be subject to the approval of the District Manager;
- roads shall not be constructed, upgraded or extended until the special study is complete, unless it is determined by the District Manager that such construction is necessary, and then, only in accordance with the Planning Approval Procedure described in Table 1;
- managed buffers are to be applied along roads providing access to Algonquin Park;
- the District will not further dispose of Crown rights, except through staking under the Mining Act;
- roads that will provide increased access to the Dividing Lake proposed addition to Algonquin Park will be constructed, upgraded or extended;
- the District will undertake a study to determine:
 - the need to establish a special management area adjacent to Algonquin Park;
 - the boundaries of such a special management area;
 - appropriate strategies for resource management planning and implementation; and

-
- the most appropriate roads system for both resource extraction and recreational uses.

MANAGEMENT AREA 4 (Special Study Area - Parks)

Description

An area in Livingstone Township at the end of Kawagama Lake, and including Kimball Lake, which may contain provincially significant life science features.

Intent

The following interim management guidelines for this area will ensure that the option of protecting any provincially significant features is maintained.

Management Strategy

This area is to be treated as a Special Study Area with appropriate policies for management established by amendment to the District Land Use Strategy. Should the features in the area prove to be significant, one option for management is to establish the area as a provincial park.

Interim guidelines for management within this area are as follows:

- the extraction of aggregates and the harvesting of timber will not be permitted;
- new access roads will not be constructed;
- further Crown rights will not be disposed of, except for mineral exploration. Mineral exploration may be permitted under controlled conditions provided park values are not jeopardized. If exploration results in the discovery of an economic deposit, then an accommodation will be made according to the specifics of the situation. Such an accommodation will honour the investment made in exploration, while recognizing the significant park values in the area under question; and
- the District will undertake a study, and document by December 31, 1984:
 - the location of any features of interest to the provincial parks program;
 - their contribution to parks program targets;
 - resources of interest or concern to other Ministry programs; and
 - recommended management provisions for inclusion in the District Land Use Strategy.

MANAGEMENT AREA 4 (Resource Management Centres)

Description

There are three demonstration areas for integrated resource management in the District which provides resource products, recreation facilities and contributes to public understanding of resource management.

They are located in the Township of Laurier, Town of Bracebridge and Townships of Lake of Bays and Sherborne, McClintock and Livingstone.

Intent

To continue to manage these facilities for demonstration, recreational and resource production.

Management Strategy

- a management plan for the Bracebridge Resource Management Centre will be updated;
- Resource Management Plans for the Trout Creek and Leslie M. Frost Resource Management Centres have been prepared by North Bay District and the Leslie M. Frost Centre respectively. All management activities within these areas will be in accordance with these plans; and
- the District will ensure that all amendments to the Trout Creek and Leslie M. Frost Resource Management Plans are consistent with program requirements within Bracebridge District as identified in this Strategy.

MANAGEMENT AREA 6 (Provincial Parks)

Description

Consists of two existing provincial parks: Arrowhead Park in the Town of Huntsville and Mikisew Park in the Township of Machar.

Intent

To continue to manage these facilities as provincial parks.

Management Strategy

To be managed for park purposes in accordance with Master Plans when approved.

MANAGEMENT AREA 7 (Proposed Candidate Parks)

Description

Six proposed candidate parks, all of which can contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the provincial parks system in Bracebridge District. These proposed candidates include the Bauer property in the Township of Lake of Bays; Bigwind in the Town of Bracebridge; Chetwynd in the Township of Armour; Hardy Lake in the Township of Muskoka Lakes; Ragged Falls/Oxtongue River in Finlayson, Sherborne, McClintock and Livingstone Townships; and Dividing Lake (Tall Pines Reserve), Township of Sherborne, McClintock and Livingstone.

Intent

These properties will be managed to ensure that park values are protected.

Management Strategy

- all management activities to be undertaken within these areas must be compatible with the proposed purpose for the area as identified in provision 2(a), Section II F.
- no additional access into these areas will be permitted, except where it is consistent with the proposed park development. Specifically, a road linkage will not be created through Bigwind proposal, nor will road access be created to the Dividing Lake Reserve.
- the District may consider permitting mining exploration and extraction under controlled conditions in accordance with provision 3, Section II C.

MANAGEMENT AREA 8A (Natural Areas of Provincial Significance)

MANAGEMENT AREA 8B (Natural Areas of Regional/Local Significance)

Description

Four areas having features important for preservation due to their educational and research values. Of these three are, or may be, provincially significant; the fourth is important from a local perspective.

Management Strategies

- Axe Lake in the Town of Huntsville and Township of Muskoka Lakes

This area contains relic Atlantic Coastal Region plant communities of glacial Lake Algonquin origin that are of provincial to national significance.

The District will attempt to protect the feature through agreements with private landowners adjacent to the lake.

- Skeleton Lake in the Township of Muskoka Lakes

The basin which Skeleton Lake now fills is widely believed to be a meteorite crater. Breccia rock types associated with the formation of the crater occur at Tomelin Bluffs and on Opal Island. The breccias are regional, and possibly provincially, significant.

The District will retain Opal Island as Crown land and ensure that management activities are consistent with protection objectives.

- Sharpe's Creek in the Town of Bracebridge

The site contains a natural exposure of Lake Algonquin varved clays with a 15 to 20 metre face which may be provincially significant.

The District will attempt to maintain this feature through the planning process of the municipality and landowner agreements if necessary.

- Highway #35 Road Cut in the Township of Lake of Bays

Two large road cuts reveal several locally significant geologic features. The road cuts occur in Middle Precambrian age pink meta-arkosic rocks with dark layers that outline large S-shaped recumbent folds. A well defined vertical fault is also present.

An agreement will be sought with the Ministry of Transportation and Communications to enable public viewing of the site.

MANAGEMENT AREA 9 (Cold Water Fisheries)

Description

Lakes and streams with physical, biological and chemical characteristics which enable survival of cold water fish species, including brook trout. These features are located throughout the District.

Intent/Management Strategy

The District will attempt to maintain all existing cold water fish habitats. All management activities will be undertaken in such a manner as to avoid habitat degradation of cold water streams and lakes.

MANAGEMENT AREA 10 (Spawning Areas)

Description

Known locations, where desirable¹ fish species traditionally and successfully spawn are located throughout the District.

Intent/Management Strategy

The District will attempt to protect spawning areas of all known, desirable species. Management activities will be undertaken in a manner that will minimize disturbance to spawning areas.

MANAGEMENT AREA 11 (Deer Yards)

Description

Areas containing suitable conifer cover and sources of winter feed that have traditionally supported deer populations throughout the winter season. These areas are located throughout the District.

Intent

It is the intent of the Ministry to ensure that these areas are maintained as wintering areas for deer.

Management Strategy

- the District will manage winter deer yards for the purpose of providing habitat conditions suitable for the survival of deer.
- all activities within deer yards on Crown land will be consistent with the requirements of winter deer populations.
- the District will encourage the management of deer yards on private lands consistent with the requirements of winter deer populations.
- no further disposition of Crown rights will occur, except for mineral exploration and development, as provided for in provision 2, Section II C.

MANAGEMENT AREA 12 (Timber Research Plots)

Description

These areas contain timber research plots established by the Ministry to generate knowledge, and to develop techniques and methods in the fields

¹Desirable species include: all trout species; large and small mouth bass, pickerel; muskellunge and pike.

of forest biology and management, in order to manage the forest more effectively.

Intent/Management Strategy

The District will retain these areas as research plots, and will ensure that all management activities in these areas are consistent with continuing research requirements.

MANAGEMENT AREA 14 (Moose Range)

Description

There are two areas in the District which are suited to moose habitats. They are located at the northeastern boundary of the District and in the Township of Muskoka Lakes, Township of Perry, and Town of Huntsville.

Intent/Management Strategy

The District will conduct management within these areas consistent with prescriptions and the enhancement of moose habitats, as detailed in provision 2, Section II E.

A: general

Through intensive management, emphasis on extension assistance, and public information programs, the District will be able to achieve the Ministry targets in Bracebridge District. This requires, however, that all program activities be carried out in accordance with the intent and direction of this Strategy.

The responsibility for the means to implement this Strategy are identified throughout this document. To summarize, Ministry objectives will be achieved in Bracebridge District through:

- management, operational, and work planning;
- Ministry program activities;
- extension and assistance programs for private land;
- input to, and review of, municipal official plans and zoning by-laws and review of specific development proposals;
- adoption of a planning and project approvals procedure outlined below;
- resource inventory on both public and private land; and
- regular public consultation.

Management, operational, project and work plans are prepared to identify activities to be undertaken by the Ministry or its agents. These provide more specific direction for management and the use of land and resources. Such plans will be prepared in conformity with the provisions and general intent of this Strategy. Existing management and operational plans which are not consistent with this Strategy will be amended to conform to it.

As achievement of Ministry objectives is dependent on the resources on private land, major efforts must be made in attempting to influence the use of these lands. This will be done through the provision of advice and assistance to private landowners regarding resource management; through establishment of formal agreements and arrangements for Ministry management of private lands; and through Ministry submissions to municipalities in the preparation of long range land use plans, and review of these plans and

private sector development proposals. The Ministry will specifically encourage designation of areas necessary to Ministry target achievement as "primary resource areas" or similar designation with supporting policies for use or protection. Such resources include Site Classes 1, 2 and 3 for tolerant hardwood and pine; important aggregate resources; deer yards; and critical resource areas.

Additionally, on all lands, the statutory authority of the Ministry will be used to promote the wise use and management of all resources in accordance with the provisions and general spirit and intent of this Strategy.

B: planning approval procedure

As noted above, management, operational and project plans provide more specific direction for management and the use of land and resources. Consequently, if actions carried out on the ground by the Ministry are to reflect clearly the direction set out in the District Land Use Strategy, it is essential that a clear approvals procedure be established for these plans. This procedure is identified in Table 1.

The procedure which will be implemented in the approval of plans is consistent with the environmental assessment planning process, and consequently, will not only ensure consistency with the District Land Use Strategy but with the Environmental Assessment Act.

TABLE 1 PLANNING APPROVAL PROCEDURE

Step	Description
1	<p><u>Project/Plan Proposal:</u> The service initiating action describes the project and area it will affect together with its purpose and the need for it.</p> <p>Options which exist in carrying out the project or conducting management (e.g. status of road, alternate locations, type of forest management prescriptions) are identified.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to the appropriate degree of consultation with other agencies and the public, respecting the project.</p>
2	<p><u>Analysis:</u> This step involves the identification of the program constraints and specific location and operational criteria as identified or provided for through the District Land Use Strategy. Additional constraints and restrictions such as environmental concerns are also identified. A checklist will guide this analysis.</p>
3	<p><u>Meeting on Proposal:</u> When necessary, the District Management Committee (or similar all-program group) meets to review and evaluate the proposed direction and management prescriptions to ensure that the project or plan is consistent with the Land Use Strategy, that all other concerns are adequately covered and that all programs are aware of the proposed direction. The District Manager approves of, or rejects, the proposal. This review may identify a need to amend the District Strategy.</p>
4	<p><u>Project/Plan Preparation:</u> This step involves the detailed preparation of the management, operational or project plan according to the agreement reached in Step 3.</p>
5	<p><u>Plan Review and Approval:</u> This detailed plan is then reviewed by all programs. Additional concerns and directions are incorporated.</p> <p>Again the need for changes in the District Land Use Strategy may be identified in this review and should be amended <u>before</u> the project is approved.</p> <p>The plan is approved by the District Manager.</p>
6	<p><u>Monitoring:</u> The file is put in order for possible public scrutiny. A monitoring system is put in place at a level of detail appropriate to the project, to assess how well objectives are met and concerns have been mitigated.</p>

C: consistency with municipal planning

Ministry activities, and activities which are approved by the Ministry in Bracebridge District, will generally be consistent with approved municipal official plans and zoning by-laws. Where the Ministry proposes, or receives proposals to approve of, an activity which does not conform with official plans or by-laws the Ministry will normally ensure that a plan amendment or rezoning is obtained by the proponent before proceeding with that use or authorization.

D: uses which do not conform to the strategy

Where uses which do not conform to the Strategy exist and their continued existence is considered by the District Manager, upon the advice of program supervisors, to adversely affect the achievement of program objectives and targets, consideration must be given to:

- phasing out the land use over an acceptable period of time; or
- relocating or reallocating the use of some other area; or
- amending the plan to provide for reduction in program objectives, targets, or for some alternative means of program achievement; or
- any combination of the above.

The above provision does not apply to illegal uses or occupation of Crown land or resources.

E: review and amendment of the strategy

New information, a shift in policy or any other substantial change may make it necessary to review and update the Strategy. The need for a review may not occur at planned intervals. The Bracebridge District Land Use Strategy, therefore will be open to review at any time.

Any group within, or outside of the Ministry can propose a change in the Strategy. Suggestions for change should be forwarded to the District Manager, Bracebridge District. The proposed change will be reviewed by the District, and if determined to be of a minor nature will be either approved or rejected without a total review of this Strategy.

Where the proposed variation is of a significant magnitude (one that will modify the intent of the Strategy or affect the ability to achieve District targets), a complete review of the proposal would take place with referral to the Regional Director, Algonquin Region. The public will be notified of such a proposed alteration and opportunities for public input will be made available.

Although it is expected that changes in the plan will be suggested throughout the implementation period, there will also be the opportunity for regular review and data updates. These will be conducted at five year intervals and will follow the same format as indicated previously.

TABLE 2 ACHIEVEMENT OF PROVINCIAL PARK TARGETS IN BRACEBRIDGE DISTRICT

Properties	Management by Class or Agreement	Protection/Heritage Appreciation			Recreation/Tourism Opportunities (000's)			
		Earth Science	Life Science	Hist.	Swim	Picnic	Camping	Back- 1 country
<u>Existing Parks:</u>								
Arrowhead	NE	P	P	R	21	12	84	-
Mikisew	REC	R	L	U	14	6	57	-
<u>Proposed Candidates:</u>								
Bauer								
Property	NE	L	L	U	8	-	-	-
Bigwind	NE	L	P	U	-	-	32	-
Chetwynd	R	R	L	L	7	2	29	-
Dividing								
Lake	NR (Zone)	L	P	U	-	-	-	0.5
Hardy Lake	NE	R	P	R	21	5	-	-
Ragged/ Oxtongue River	WW	L	R	R	-	1	-	0.5
<u>Natural Areas of Significance:</u>								
Axe Lake	A	R	P	U	-	-	-	-
Sharpe Creek	A	R	U	U	-	-	-	-
Skeleton								
Lake	A	R	U	U	-	-	-	-
Highway 35	A	L	U	U	-	-	-	-
Total					71	26	202	1.0

Notes: Management Approach

Park Classification

NR	-	Nature Reserve
WN	-	Wilderness
NE	-	Natural Environment
WW	-	Waterway
H	-	Historical
R	-	Recreation
A	-	Agreement

Resource Significance

P	-	Provincial
R	-	Regional
L	-	Local
U	-	Unknown
-	-	Nil

¹ In Bracebridge District, existing provincial parks are not managed to provide back-country recreation opportunities. Back-country recreation includes canoeing and backpacking in remote areas.

Back-country Recreation Opportunities	This includes canoe tripping and/or backpacking in remote areas accessible only on foot or by manually powered water craft.
Candidate Park	An area of land with values as a provincial park which the Ministry will protect with a view to formal designation as a park at some future date.
Canopy	The cover of branches and foliage formed by tree crowns.
Capability	The natural ability of an area to provide continuous opportunity for benefits under an assumed level of management.
Cold Water Habitat	Water bodies having characteristics that support cold water fish including trout, and white fish.
Crown Land/ Public Land	All land, including land under water, held by the Province. The term refers to both land which has never been sold, and land which has been reacquired. In this report, public land and Crown land are used synonymously.
Deer Yards	An area used repeatedly by deer in the winter, having dense conifer cover to provide shelter and available browse for feed.
Earth Science Sites	Public or private land where landforms of provincial interest have been identified.
Environment	All of the natural and man-made systems, conditions and commodities of a planning area.
Furbearers	Animals having commercially valuable pelts including beaver, mink, marten, otter, muskrat, fisher, fox, racoon, wolf, lynx.
Habitat	The place or type of site where an animal or plant naturally or normally lives.
Hazard Lands	Lands, which because of their physical characteristics, in combination with their locations, present a risk for their occupants (including loss of life, property damage and social disruption) (e.g. flooding).
Historical Theme Segment	Theme segments represent important phases of a distinctive activity which took place at a specific time and place within Ontario.

Historical Parks	Historical park areas selected to represent the distinctive historical resources of the Province in an open space setting, and are protected for interpretive, educational and research purposes.
Intolerant Hardwoods	Includes the following tree species: poplar and white birch. The term "intolerant" refers to the sensitivity of these species to shade.
Licence of Occupation	A licence giving permission to use and occupy public land for a specific purpose.
Life Science Sites	Public or private land where natural habitats of provincial interest have been identified.
Littoral Zone	The relatively shallow area of a lake normally adjacent to the shore that supports the growth of aquatic vegetation.
Management Plan	A detailed plan identifying how a resource is to be managed consisting of specific guidelines for achievement of strategy policies.
Mineral Aggregate	Composed of gravel, sand, stone.
Mining Rights	The right to work the ores, and minerals on or under any land. These may be granted separately from surface rights.
Multiple Use	The occurrence in a coordinated manner of two or more land uses, on the same land area, at the same time.
Natural Environment Parks	Natural Environment Parks incorporate outstanding recreational landscapes with representative natural features and historical resources, to provide high quality recreational and educational experiences.
Nature Reserves	Nature Reserves are areas selected to represent the distinctive natural habitats and landforms of the province, and are protected for educational and research purposes to benefit present and future generations.
Objective	A quantifiable and attainable end which the Ministry's efforts are intended to accomplish.
Occasion	A measure of actual recreational use describing the number of times a recreational resource or facility is used by individuals in a given time period. An occasion is considered not to exceed one day in duration.
Operational Plan	A part of the management plan stating the extent (includes human and financial resources) of all work of any nature to be carried out during one or more years of the management period.
Opportunity	A measure of recreation supply. It is used to describe the number of times a resource or facility can be used (occasions of use) in a given time period. An opportunity is considered not to be greater than one day.

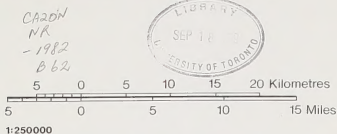
Production Forest Land	An area of productive forest land dedicated to the growing of merchantable timber or the production of other forest products.
Program	An activity undertaken by the Ministry providing a service or managing a particular resource.
Proposed Candidate Parks	A proposal to identify an area of land as a candidate park for public review during district planning.
Public Land	See Crown Land.
Recreation Parks	Recreation Parks are areas which support a wide variety of outdoor recreational opportunities for large numbers of people in attractive surroundings.
Rehabilitate (Fisheries)	To restore degraded fish habitat or fish community to which it is self-sustaining.
Resource	Any commodity that meets a need.
Saw Log	A log considered suitable in size and quality for producing sawn lumber.
Selection Harvest	The removal of mature trees, either as scattered individuals or in small groups, at relatively short intervals and repeated indefinitely. The objective is representation of all age-classes distributed throughout the stand.
Sequential Use	Where one use is followed by another in planned sequence (e.g. gravel extraction followed by residential development).
Shelterwood Cut	The removal of mature trees in a series of two or more cuts for the purpose of obtaining natural regeneration under the shelter of the residual stand.
Short Log	A short length of sawn timber generally less than 1.8 metres (6 feet) long.
Site Class	A measure of the relative productive capacity of a site for timber production.
Site District	A fairly large subdivision of a site region set apart from other areas because of a characteristic pattern of landform features. Three of Ontario's twenty-six site districts are represented in Bracebridge District.
Site Region	An area of land within which the response of vegetation to the features of landform follow a consistent pattern. Each specific type of land (defined in terms of relief, soil, texture, depth and drainage) within a specific site region has its characteristic plant succession.
Staking	Claiming a title or right to a parcel of Crown land by placing posts identifying a parcel of land on which you wish to pursue mineral exploration to satisfy the legal requirements of the Mining Act.

Strategy	Planned actions or measures to achieve a desired end.
Succession	The replacement of one plant community by one of a different nature over time.
Surface Rights	All rights in land, other than mining rights, including sand and gravel deposits.
Target	A quantified end to be achieved or completed by a specific date.
Tolerant Hardwoods	Includes the following tree species: sugar maple, beech, basswood, yellow birch, red oak and white ash. The term "tolerant" refers to the ability of these species to tolerate moderate levels of shade.
Veneer Log	A log considered suitable in size and quality for producing veneer (a thin sheet of wood of uniform thickness).
Waterway Parks	Waterway parks incorporate outstanding recreational water routes with representative natural features and historical resources to provide high quality recreational and educational experiences.
Wetlands	Lands which are permanently or seasonally covered with shallow water and where distinctive soil conditions, plant and wildlife communities develop. These include wetland forests, (swamps), wetland thickets, marshes, bogs and fens.

FIGURE 8

BRACEBRIDGE DISTRICT

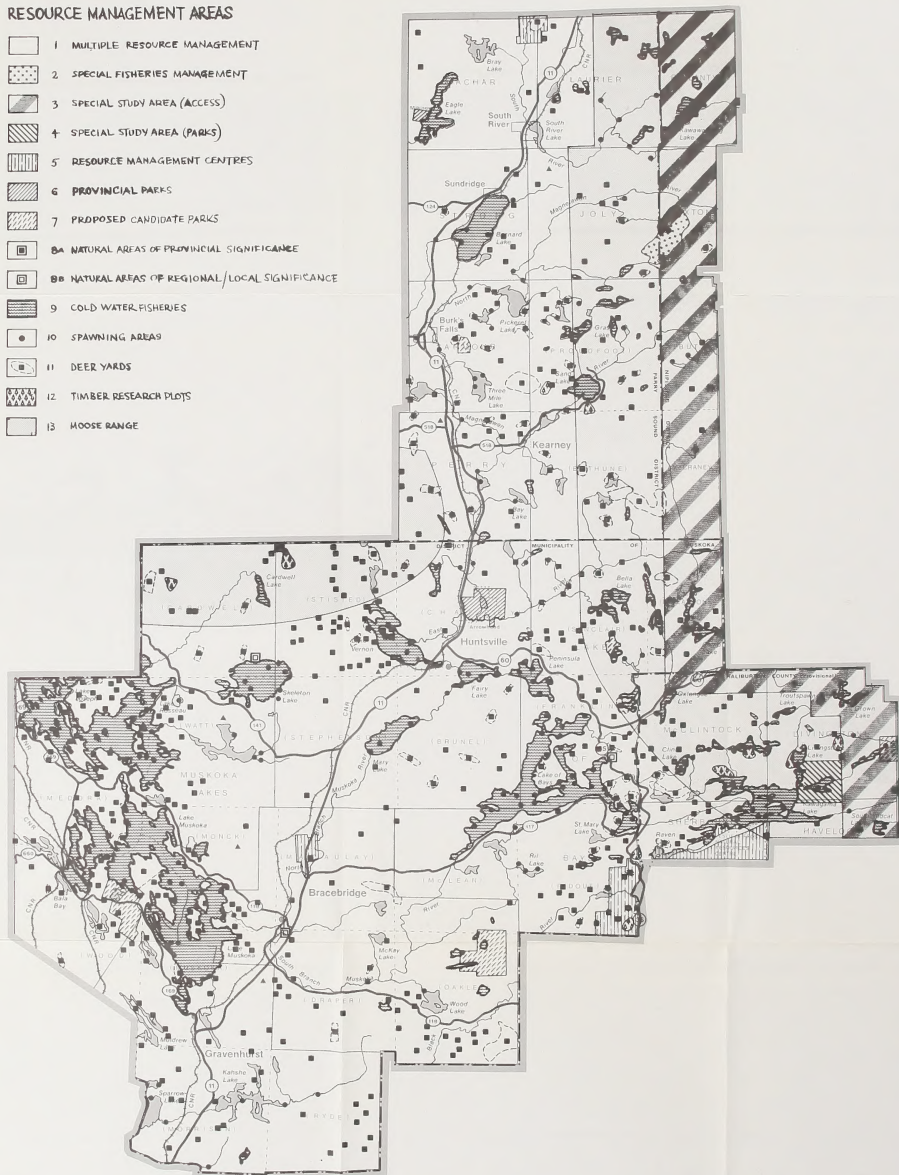
LAND USE STRATEGY



- M.N.R. Administrative District
- - - District Municipality, County, District
- Ward
- Town, Village, Township
- Town Centre
- Provincial Park
- ▲ Air Base
- Paved Highways
- CNR Railways

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREAS

- 1 MULTIPLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
- 2 SPECIAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT
- 3 SPECIAL STUDY AREA (ACCESS)
- 4 SPECIAL STUDY AREA (PARKS)
- 5 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CENTRES
- 6 PROVINCIAL PARKS
- 7 PROPOSED CANDIDATE PARKS
- 8a NATURAL AREAS OF PROVINCIAL SIGNIFICANCE
- 8b NATURAL AREAS OF REGIONAL/LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE
- 9 COLD WATER FISHERIES
- 10 SPAWNING AREAS
- 11 DEER YARDS
- 12 TIMBER RESEARCH PLOTS
- 13 MOOSE RANGE





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